

PROCEEDINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE,

OF THE

THIRD DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

STATE OF OHIO,

IN REFERENCE TO THE

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH  
THAT SUBJECT.

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DECEMBER, 1832.

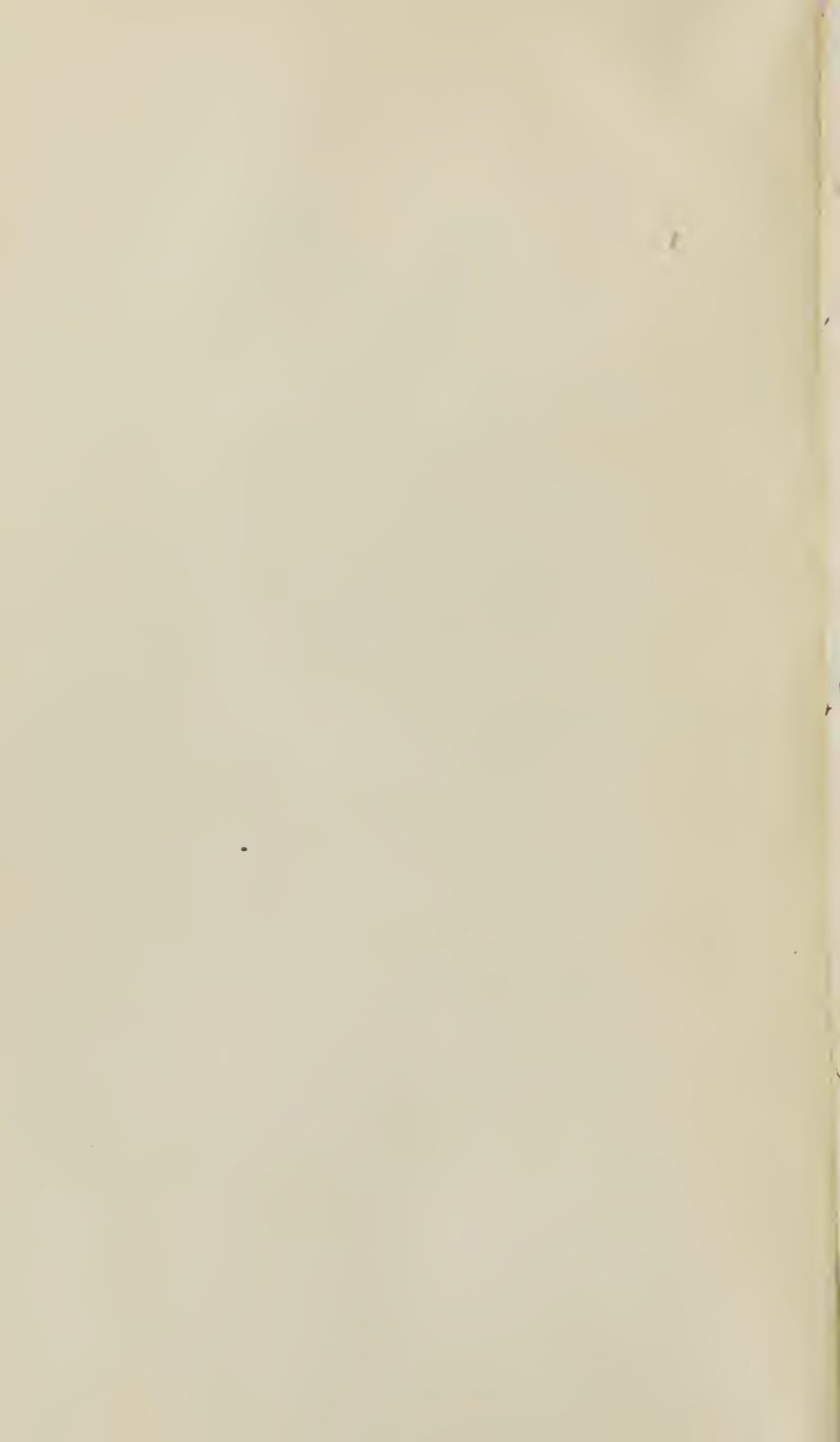
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DECEMBER, 1832.

TO THE PHYSICIANS AND CITIZENS OF OHIO:

THE undersigned, a committee of the THIRD DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY, appointed to memorialize the Legislature on the subject of re-organizing the *Medical College of Ohio*, beg leave to ask the serious attention of the citizens of Ohio, and, especially, its Physicians to the following Proceedings, Resolutions, Correspondence and Memorial, relative to the Institution; and would, most respectfully, solicit their co-operation, on the Legislature, in the efforts of the Society to reform the College.

JOSHUA MARTIN,  
JOSEPH TEMPLETON,  
JNO. ROSS,  
JOSEPH STANTON,  
WM. BELL,

*Committee.*

XENIA, Ohio, December 6, 1832.

## PROCEEDINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

# MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO.

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### I.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At a late meeting of the third District Medical Society, held in Waynesville, Warren county, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, It is believed that the legislative enactments under which we this day assemble, have for their object the improvement of medical science, we deem it not only our privilege, but our duty, to inquire into the causes which retard this improvement, and at the same time to endeavor to extend the means by which it may be elevated to its greatest eminence:

*And whereas*, Medical Schools, conducted upon liberal principles and with ability, are of the utmost importance to the advancement of this science, we have long cherished an ardent desire to witness the establishment of such an institution in Ohio:

*And whereas*, Our Legislature has bountifully provided all the pecuniary means for the founding of an institution of the character in contemplation, and the Medical College of Ohio, the recipient of this legislative beneficence, having failed to acquire a high character at home or abroad, we are constrained to ascribe this failure to the narrow policy pursued by its Board of Trustees.

*And whereas*, a system of partiality and favoritism the most extraordinary and unprecedented, has been practised by those Trustees in the appointment of a gentleman, who frankly acknowledges his incompetence, to the responsible chair of the Institutes and Medical jurisprudence, (since abolished) for which he asked and obtained one year to qualify himself, and this too to the exclusion of accomplishments of the first order, and celebrity in the United States; and there yet being talents and qualifications of the highest order, in the college, (contrary to the known wishes of the Trustees) which are so burthened by a preponderating mediocrity, that they will, ere long we fear, be compelled to seek a situation, where selfish and disgraceful partiality is not permitted to rule, regardless of the safety of society, the benefits of medical science, the policy, the reputation, and the true interest of our state; we are called upon to deprecate the abuse of power, and contribute something in support of a profession and a science long too much neglected and degraded:

*Resolved*, Therefore, that as a society, and individually, we will use all honorable means to induce our Legislature, at its next regular session, to so change or extend the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, as that it may thereafter be governed upon such principles as shall conciliate confidence and patronage, and promote those high interests, which were labored for in its foundation, and that Drs. Martin, Templeton, Ross, Staunton, and Bell, be a committee to memorialize the Legislature on this subject.

*Resolved*, That the Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, have acted unwisely in abolishing the chair of the Institutes and that that chair ought never to be dispensed with in a well regulated medical school.

*Resolved*, That the power of appointing and removing Professors ought to

be vested in a Board of Regents, who should reside in different parts of the state; and that a part of them should belong to the medical profession.

*Resolved*, That our professional brethren throughout the State, be invited to co-operate with us, in our efforts to elevate the character of the Medical College of Ohio.

*Resolved*, That editors of newspapers throughout the State, be, and they are hereby respectfully solicited to publish these proceedings.

By order of the Society.

J. MARTIN, *President*.

J. S. PERKINS, *Secretary*.

Waynesville, Ohio, May 29. 1832.

## II.—CORRESPONDENCE.

*Letter of the Chairman of the Society's Committee, to Daniel Drake, M. D.*

XENIA, September 24th, 1832.

SIR,—At the last meeting of the Third District Medical Society, a preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, censuring the Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio. The first resolution reads as follows: "*Resolved therefore*, That as a society, and individually, we will use all honorable means to induce our Legislature at its next regular session, to so change or extend the board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, as that it may, thereafter, be governed upon such principles as shall conciliate confidence and patronage, and promote those high interests which were labored for in its foundation, and that Drs. Martin, Templeton, Ross, Stanton, and Bell, be a committee to memorialize the Legislature on this subject."

As chairman of the above committee, I feel it my duty to collect all the facts within my reach in relation to the government of the College, that they may be embodied in our memorial to the Legislature.

I am, therefore, induced to solicit of you a short history of the Medical College of Ohio, from its foundation to the present period; embracing all the facts in relation to the conduct of the trustees, in the appointment and removal of professors, &c. Your attention to this subject will confer a favor on

Your obedient Servant,

JOSHUA MARTIN, *Chairman*.

*Dr. Drake's reply to the Committee.*

CINCINNATI, September 29th, 1832.

GENTLEMEN,—I find that I cannot speak of the Medical College of Ohio, without a constant reference to myself, a circumstance, that has embarrassed my feelings, whenever I have thought of complying with the request of your chairman, for information on the history and present state of that institution. The College is not, however, a private but a public Seminary, and as such, I have the same right, as any other citizen of Ohio, to desire its prosperity and expose the abuses that have retarded its progress. In cherishing the former, I will not yield to any of my fellow citizens, and in executing the latter, I shall endeavor to sustain the character of an unfaltering, if not a skilful friend.

If I know my own heart, I am more anxious to see the institution prosperous and respectable; than, again, to belong to it myself. A recollection of



the origin of the College, will enable you to appreciate the sincerity of this declaration.

Much of the information which I propose to communicate to you, will be in the form of documents, which I shall connect together by such a narrative, as may seem necessary to their explanation. That you may understand the policy which has misdirected the destinies of the school, for the last ten years, it is indispensable, that I should refer to its origin and early history.

In the year 1816, I had the honor to be elected Professor of *Materia Medica* and Botany, in the projected Medical Department of Transylvania University; and in the autumn of the next year, entered on my duties. A winter's residence in Lexington, convinced me, that Cincinnati even then was, and in future would more decidedly be, far preferable to that town, for such an institution; and in the spring of 1818, I resigned with the determination of attempting to found a Medical School in this place.

My withdrawal from the Lexington School was followed, I do not say as a consequence, by the resignation of some of its professors, and a suspension of its operations, in the succeeding winter. Had I remained at Lexington, and that institution continued in uninterrupted action, from its organization in 1817, I do not hesitate to say, that no effort would have been made at this place for many years, and perhaps not up to the present time; for nobody here, nor in any part of the state, as far as I know, had thought of a medical school, in Cincinnati; and not one of those who have since held places in the College, was an inhabitant of Ohio, at the time it was projected. These are facts which I hope you will keep in mind: I shall, hereafter, show their bearing.

In the winter of 1818-19, I drew up the first charter of the Medical College of Ohio; and visiting Columbus, had it presented in the House of Representatives, by Doctor Daniel Smith, a zealous and intelligent member from Fairfield county, now resident in Western Virginia. It was referred to a Committee, which, on the succeeding night, met in the Senate Chamber, in the midst of a considerable concourse of the members of both houses. On the invitation of the Committee, I attended this meeting; and, at their request, explained to them and their fellow members, the nature, objects and advantages of the proposed institution. The only diversity of sentiment which existed among them, related to the location of the School; but they soon came to understand, that the largest town of the state was the most eligible; and the bill, reported by the Committee, as I had drafted it, was forthwith enacted into a law, with but one inconsiderable alteration in its provisions. These again are facts which I desire you to remember.

The Charter was dated, January 19th, 1819. Its promulgation in Cincinnati instantly stirred up the feelings of a number of my medical brethren; who seemed to think I was getting some kind of advantage over them, and, as the gazettes of that day will show, they assailed me on every side, and, at least two of those who have since held places in the school, and had emigrated to the city a short time before, were among the number of the aggressors. As I had to look abroad for most of my colleagues, their publications, disseminated 'far and wide,' embarrassed me exceedingly in the organization of the first Faculty; and led many of my friends to advise me to abandon the project: especially as the president and several of the professors of Transylvania University, were urging me by letter to give it up and re-join that institution. However, by very considerable expenditures of time, money and repose of mind, I at length succeeded in organizing a faculty of four professors; and in the autumn of 1820, the first session commenced. Under the aggressions

to which I here refer, scarcely an individual came to my aid; and several of those, who have, for years, been members of the Board of Trustees, were intimately associated with the physicians who sought to destroy the institution in its infancy. These, likewise, are facts which I must desire you not to forget.

Meanwhile the Lexington school, by means of a liberal contribution, as a *bonus* to eminent professors from a distance, had recommenced its operations under highly favorable auspices; and the consequence was, that our class of pupils was so small, that my receipts, as Professor of the Institutes and Practice (a chair which I had received from the Legislature) were in no degree equal to the expenditures of money—to say nothing of time that should have been devoted to my professional business—which I had been compelled to make. But undaunted by these difficulties, or, I should rather say, infatuated by the object, I resolved, during our first course of lectures, to apply to the General Assembly, for money to build, and revenues to endow, a hospital, as a Clinical school for the College, and as one of the means of attracting pupils.

My experienced political friends smiled at my credulity, and predicted that the Legislature would do nothing, but grant corporate powers. However, with a kind of instinctive impulse, I proceeded to draw up the present Charter of the Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio; and, again, set off for Columbus. Three weeks of unfaltering importunity, obtained, not only a charter, but money to build a Hospital, and ample revenues for its permanent support. In this establishment, the professors of the College had certain advantages secured to them, forever; which benefits they are now enjoying; and these, again, are facts which I hope you will not forget.

On my return with these beneficial fruits for the College, the anger of its enemies was exalted into fury; and I was spoken of by many respectable, but short-sighted and deluded citizens, as a disturber of the peace of society. At the instigation of professional rivals, and those who were disappointed in their aspirations after seats in the College, a great public meeting was held in the court house; where several demagogues undertook to demonstrate, that the acceptance of the charter by the city would ultimately impoverish it; and resolutions were actually passed recommending its rejection! Still further to promote the same *desirable* end, ward meetings were held, at night, over the whole city, where many of our physicians, some of whom have since been professors of the College, appeared as speakers against the acceptance of the charter, and similar resolutions were passed! While these things were acting, the newspaper press was again put into requisition, and made to pour out upon me, the most copious torrents of calumny and abuse. The intelligent taxpayers of the city, however, had the sagacity to foresee, that the proposed endowment of the Hospital, would, as it has in fact, already done, work out a signal reduction of the poor taxes; and through their influence, exerted from *this motive*, and united with the few friends of the College, the charter was finally accepted by a vote of seven to five hundred; and these, also, are facts which I ask you to bear in mind.

In the following summer, I succeeded in obtaining the co-operation of the late distinguished and lamented Dr. Godman, then a young man; and, I fearlessly assert, that the institution, young as it was, had, then, an abler Faculty than belonged to it for the succeeding ten years; but so violent had been the newspaper publications in Cincinnati, and so attractive were the eminent and developed professors, whom the liberality of the people of Lexington, had enabled the trustees of Transylvania University to draw into that institution; so efficient was the surgical reputation of Dr. Dudley, and so

great was the popularity of president Holley, that our class was scarcely larger than that of the preceding year. This discouraged two of my colleagues, Drs. Godman and Bohrer, who resigned in the Spring of 1822, and returned to the eastern states.

By this time my other two associates, Dr. Smith and Mr. Slack, the latter following the former, were in collusion with my enemies, because their numerical force was imposing; and without being able to prefer charges of any kind against me, they expelled me from the institution. Thus I did not *voluntarily* abandon it, but was *forcibly displaced*, by two men, younger than myself, who had recently come to the west, and had received their appointments on my own nomination. At that time the College was dignified with the office of President, to which I had been appointed by the Legislature, and my expulsion of course vacated that office likewise. Thus terminated the first epoch in the history of the College; and such, to myself, were the bitter fruits of four years of incessant toil, in the midst of such a tempest of slander and libels, as never, before or since, was raised against any other citizen of Ohio.

In calmly reviewing, after the lapse of many years, the labors and events of that period, I feel it due to myself to claim, that I conceived the design and projected the plan, of the Medical College of Ohio; drew up its Charter, and by a personal application to the Legislature got it enacted into a law; through the members of that honorable body, excited an interest throughout the state at large, in the institution; projected the Hospital and Lunatic asylum, establishments highly beneficial to the state and city, as well as to the College; by personal application to the Legislature procured building funds for the same with opulent revenues, which can never be abolished; obtained professors and organized the first Faculty for the College; disseminated a knowledge of the natural and statistical advantages of Cincinnati for such a school, over all the west and south; relinquished a respectable and advantageous connection with the Lexington school, for the prosecution of these objects; neglected my practice for nearly six weeks, in two visits to our seat of government; and expended a much greater sum of money than I received for my two courses of lectures:—far less than which labors and sacrifices, would be sufficient to inspire me with an ardent and inextinguishable desire for the prosperity and final success of the institution. But let us return to its history.

By the original charter, the professors of the College were themselves its governors, and there was, consequently, no Board of Trustees. After my expulsion, Dr. Smith and Mr. Slack were the only members of the corporation. They immediately proceeded to an election of officers, and the former was chosen President, and the latter Registrar. They, then, cast about among their friends and the friends of those physicians, who had labored at my overthrow, and selected a body of thirteen Counsellors, whose office it was to sanction whatever they might do; and who, I believe, seldom disappointed the expectations under which they were chosen.

In the following winter, 1822-3, the Legislature amended the charter by creating a Board of Trustees, and appointed into it, a majority of the Council. The new body met early in 1823, and, as a considerable reaction had taken place in the public mind, I was credulous enough to expect, that their first act would be, to reinstate me in the places from which I had been violently expelled; but they adjourned without considering my case, and left me to speculate on the future. I confess, that this postponement of my case, by a body of fellow citizens, many of whom had known me for more than twenty

years, excited a feeling of indignation, which the lapse of half that long period, has not entirely obliterated; in a great degree because the subsequent official acts of the same men, have contributed to keep it alive.

Soon after the meeting of which I have spoken, I was informed that they were about to introduce into the College one of my most busy and violent enemies, and that they intended to retain both of the men who had expelled me from it; at the same time, I was left entirely in the dark, as to their intentions in reference to myself. All my hopes were then blasted; and, as I had been repeatedly solicited to return to the Lexington School, I permitted one of my friends to place my name before the Transylvania Board. Soon after this was done, the Trustees of our College held another meeting, and, electing into it one of my mortal enemies, restored me to my professorship, but not to the presidency. It was now too late, however, had my feelings even permitted me to re-enter the School, under such humiliating circumstances, for I was pledged to return to the Transylvania University if re-elected,—an event which happened not long after.

Thus, by the unprovoked hostility, of those who successively exercised the corporate powers of the institution, my banishment from it was effected. With mingled emotions of sorrow and resentment, I had the weakness, as I departed, secretly to pour out upon it, the imprecation of Camillus; but this fact, I do not ask you to remember.

My transfer to the University at Lexington, was hailed by the Professors and Trustees of our College, and many of the physicians of the city, as auspicious of peace and prosperity; and, it was confidently predicted, that the institution would begin to flourish, and the profession in the city, rise in respectability. As to myself, I felt only the negative gratification, which arises from being disenthralled.

After passing four winters at Lexington, in uninterrupted harmony with my colleagues and the different classes, I became tired of librating between that city and this, from which the treatment I had received, had never alienated my affections; and I resigned, for the purpose of making this my sole residence.

Throughout the whole of this period, I had indulged the hope, of seeing our College assuming the comparative rank, which I had originally anticipated for it; but its maladies ran on in an *ataxic type*, and no *critical discharge* had occurred, nor were any signs of a *crisis* perceptible.

But let us return to the beginning of this second epoch. Soon after my departure for Lexington, in 1823, instead of casting about for some developed and experienced man, to fill the chair of the Practice of Medicine, the Trustees, on the recommendation of Dr. Smith, who had moved my expulsion, assigned it to Doctor Cobb, of the state of Maine, who had been a student in the same office with Dr. Smith, and had *just graduated!* Thus an inexperienced young gentleman, who had studied the elements of his profession, in a different latitude and among a different people, was called, with the ink still undried on his diploma, to teach students of Medicine in the Valley of the Mississippi, how to cure the diseases of the West and South! The motive of Dr. Smith was to acquire a colleague, whom he supposed would be governed by his counsels, and the motive of the Trustees in thus sacrificing the interests of the institution, probably was to gratify the man, who had made the nomination. Dr. Cobb engaged in his duties; but after one or two sessions, had the good sense to perceive, that to teach the Practice of Physic, a man must, himself, have been a practitioner, and very properly required the Board to transfer him to the chair of Anatomy, or he must leave the institution. This proposition greatly aggravated a difference which had already arisen between Dr.



Cobb and Dr. Smith, who held both Anatomy and Surgery; and it eventuated in an open quarrel, which I mention, because it has often been, falsely, asserted, that the Faculty were always harmonious, after I left the institution. In this quarrel Dr. Moorhead took part with Dr. Cobb, and Mr. Slack, as in earlier times, clung to Dr. Smith; and thus the four professors, paired off, were arrayed against each other in open hostility. They all concurred, however, in the gratuitous opinion, that I was desirous of returning to the College, and that they ought to stand by each other in barring me out. I am willing to appeal to the citizens of Cincinnati, who knew any thing of the affairs of the College in 1824, 5 and 6, for the truth of all these statements. After a considerable struggle, the influence of Drs. Cobb and Moorhead prevailed, in the Board of Trustees, and the former was placed in the chair of Anatomy, for which he was certainly better qualified than for the Practice of Physic. Dr. Smith dissembled, and appearing to acquiesce in this arrangement, suffered his name to go forth in the annual circular, as professor of Surgery only. Just before the lectures commenced, however, when he thought it was too late for the Board to supply his place, he suddenly resigned, and advertised to lecture on all the branches of the profession, at "a dollar a week for regular students, and fifty cents for amateurs!" Such an unblushing and undignified attempt, to injure the institution, would have forever alienated him from the confidence of an impartial and high minded Board of Trustees; but the managers in the Board, were his friends, and as I shall mention hereafter, he was subsequently restored to the same chair, by the very men with whom he had thus trifled, the vote of one of them, without which, his re-election could not have been effected, being given, as I understood, by *proxy*! This was in 1825.

After the resignation of Dr. Smith, Dr. Cobb in turn was required to discharge the duties of both chairs, although his practice in Surgery, at that time, had been as limited as his practice in Medicine. The chair of Physic being now vacant, Dr. Moorhead, who had been but a few years in America, and was comparatively unacquainted with our diseases, was transferred to it, from the chair of Materia Medica, and it became necessary to supply his place. To this end, Dr. Whitman, was judiciously selected, as one of my old College enemies; being still further recommended to the Board and the public, by his being a friend of Dr. Cobb; and having studied in the office where that gentleman and Dr. Smith were taught. Thus at the same time, three of the professors of the College, had been the private pupils of one New England physician,—the second being elected out of complaisance to the first, and the third from respect to the second; and to augment the guards to that return to the institution, which it was feared, I still meditated! At a subsequent period, Dr. Whitman was transferred to the new chair, of Obstetrics, and the Board determined to complete the usual number of professors by appointing a sixth man to the chair of Materia Medica. The choice naturally fell upon Dr. Pierson of New York, an amiable gentleman, utterly unknown to the American profession, both east and west of the mountains, and to this hour as unknown to the people of Cincinnati, where he does *not* reside—but possessed of these attractive qualifications, that he was the nephew or cousin of one Trustee, and the brother-in-law of another, both of whom were intimate with Dr. Smith, at the time of my expulsion. In this manner and from these motives, the second Faculty of the College was completed, and immediately pronounced by the Board, to be equal to any in the Union!

It was thought safest, however, not to rely *too* much on the celebrity of these gentlemen; and to secure the attendance of pupils three or four differ-

tent expedients were adopted. First: The tickets were reduced in price from twenty dollars to ten and twelve with a matriculation fee of two dollars, making an aggregate of sixty-six dollars; while those of the Philadelphia school were twenty, and those of the Lexington school fifteen dollars each. Thus a student could meet all his expenses in Cincinnati, with the sum which he had to pay the professors alone in Lexington. Two consequences came from this underbidding, so derogatory to the character of the school—first, the attraction to it of many poor students, who would have gone to Lexington, if the expenses of the two schools had been equal; and secondly, a refusal by the Faculty of Transylvania University to recognize a course of lectures in our institution, as equivalent to one in theirs.

The second stratagem for getting a class, was to obtain a law, authorizing the District Medical Societies of the state, more than twenty in number, respectively, to nominate an indigent student of medicine, who should be entitled to attend the lectures gratuitously. These nominations were made so faithfully, that from an eighth to a seventh part of each class have been constantly composed of those, who, but for this provision, would not have visited the College. I do not object to this arrangement, but refer to it, as an extraneous method, of swelling the number of pupils.

In the third place, no student was turned away because he had not the means of paying for his tickets; and credits were granted, annually, to an extraordinary number, who served at least to fill up the vacant seats. This arrangement, again, I do not object to, as it regarded the pupils who were thus favored; but it should be known to you, as one of the means employed to augment the number in attendance on the lectures.

In the fourth and last place, the Hospital was made, or attempted to be made, a substitute for the conscious deficiencies of the Professors; and, especially, was appropriated to their personal and private advantage. By a reference to the law establishing that public charity, January 1821, you will perceive that as a consideration for the gratuitous attendance of the Faculty of the College on the patients of the Hospital and Asylum, they were to be at "*liberty under such regulations as they might choose to prescribe, to introduce the pupils of said College into the said Hospital and Asylum, to witness the treatment of the patients there assembled*"—and that "*the moneys that might accrue to the said College from the admission of the pupils into the Asylum, SHOULD BE EMPLOYED EXCLUSIVELY, IN THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS, ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS AND PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS FOR SAID COLLEGE.*"

Now, I presume that you, and the profession, generally, in Ohio, have supposed, that the law which I have just quoted, was strictly carried into effect, and the Hospital thus made a source of revenue to the College, as was contemplated by the Legislature of 1821-2. But no such thing was performed. On the contrary, no hospital ticket to be purchased by students, either for summer or winter, was established, nor did the privilege of seeing the practice in that public charity, bring a cent into the treasury of the College, during the three years in which the provision was in force, after the establishment of the Hospital. In December, 1825, that part of the law which appropriated the moneys arising from the sale of hospital tickets to the benefits of the College was repealed. Still no ticket was issued. In the winter, the pupils of the College were entitled to admission into the Hospital under their matriculation fee of two dollars, and the moneys thus accruing, went into the contingent fund of the Faculty, and was absorbed by their current expenses. In the summer session the College had no pupils, and consequently none had a right to admission into the Hospital; but the professors then introduced their private

pupils, gratuitously, and excluded those of the other physicians of the city; thus offering the Hospital as a *bonus* to those who would study with them. This prostitution of a public institution, to the private emolument of the professors, did not pass unnoticed by the physicians of the city, and in the summer of 1827, a respectable portion of them presented a memorial to the Trustees of the Hospital requesting them to establish a Hospital ticket for the summer season when the College had no pupils; that any student of medicine who chose might purchase it, and thus gain admission to the practice in that public charity. This memorial was immediately laid before the Faculty, who of course set their faces against it, and there the matter ended. Thus our Hospital is placed on a different footing from all others in the United States, and one which requires the students of Cincinnati to study with the professors of the College, if they would gain admission to the wards of the Hospital through eight months of the year.

Such were some of the extraneous means, employed, from 1823 to 1831, to attract pupils to the Medical College of Ohio, and make up for the deficiencies of an incompetent Faculty; and still the classes during that long period, were most of the time far below a hundred, and never rose above it till the last two years, in which those professors continued in office; while through the same period the Lexington school, at prices fifty per cent. higher, had classes which fluctuated from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and eighty! Now when we consider that the two institutions are nearly of the same age, that Lexington has no Hospital, and that Cincinnati is universally admitted to be the far more eligible place of the two for such a seminary, the great disparity in the number of students in the two schools can only be ascribed to a disparity in the talents and character of their professors. Mortifying as this disparity in numbers *should* have been to the Trustees of our institution, they seem absolutely to have been proud of their success. They have at all times manifested, that they thought it marvellous, that *their* school should have attracted so many pupils as it did; instead of being disappointed and chagrined, that it did not equal a rival institution, laboring for distinction, under circumstances far less propitious. They appear to have felt towards their *proteges*, as fond parents feel towards children of feeble intellect, (from whom little is expected,) when they happen to say or do any thing of uncommon smartness. They considered that the Faculty had not buried its '*one talent*' in the earth, and was, therefore, entitled to praise and continued confidence.

The simple fact was, that each of the Professors was the favorite, family physician, personal friend or relative, of some one or two of the Trustees; and as the former were equal to a majority of the latter—six to eleven;—a majority of the Board were at all times ready to resist changes in the Faculty. A sort of feudal relation of vassal and lord was established; and as long as the Professor recommended himself by personal considerations to the Trustee, the latter owed him protection. This state of things, disastrous to any public institution, was the natural, and must always be the inevitable consequence, of having a small Board of Trustees, resident entirely in the city, and by re-elections continued for an indefinite period, in one dynasty. Should you continue to prosecute the important object to which you have directed your attention, I hope you will keep these facts and suggestions constantly in view. No such dynasty, however respectable its composition, will very long conduct the affairs of the College on sound principles.

During this long period of eight years, the Trustees made their annual reports to the Legislature, setting forth the prosperity of the school, and the



merits of the Professors, without their being formally contradicted on either point. Now and then, it is true, some medical gentlemen, in this city, ventured, in the newspapers, to call in question the wisdom and impartiality of the Board, or the competency of the Faculty; but they were met and silenced by the sneering remark, that they, themselves, were disappointed aspirants for places in the College. Once during the time, the State Medical Convention recommended to the Legislature, then in session, to re-organize the Board of Trustees; but the president of that body was then in Columbus, and, as I have been informed, assured the members of Assembly, that the Convention were the dupes of Dr. Drake, who was seeking to *destroy* the College, and there the matter stopped.

The fact is, that, from its origin to the present hour, the Legislature has not instituted one inquiry into the existing condition and management of the College; although it is our only *state* institution, for literary and scientific improvement. This is the more surprising, as that honorable body has, at all times, manifested, by its grants of revenue, as well as by the establishment and permanent endowment of the Hospital, a most liberal disposition. It should have perceived and felt, however, that if it was a duty to give, it was an equal duty, to see that its gifts were made productive of the greatest possible benefit and distinction to the state; and, I hope, the time *will* come, when the General Assembly will open their eyes to this subject. We shall then, and not till then, be in the way of rearing a school that will do honor to the fourth state of the union, and make itself felt throughout the Valley of the Mississippi.

Having exposed the governing motives of the Board in making up and sustaining the second Faculty of the College; and, with the strictest regard to truth, disclosed some of the prominent abuses practised by that Faculty, I must now direct your attention to the causes and manner of its partial overthrow, in 1831, after having, for eight years, rested, like an *incubus*, on the institution.

Not long after my final return from Lexington, in 1827, I was sounded on the subject of re-entering the school, not on the chair from which I had been expelled, but a new one. I replied to the Trustees, who spoke to me on the subject, that I would never serve in it, with the two men who had expelled me; but that I could furnish the Board with the names of eminent men, as Professors, if it would re-organize the Faculty. Notwithstanding these declarations, I received, on the 3d of July, a note, from the chairman of a committee, informing me that the Board had it in contemplation, to establish one or two new professorships, and wishing to know, if I would accept that of the 'Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence?' In answer, I expressed my surprise, that when it was known to the Board, that I would not serve with the men who had expelled me, it should still offer me a place, and that, too, not the one which I originally held; and added, that were this difficulty obviated, my returning to the College, would depend on its receiving such an organization as would render it worthy of the state, which had cherished it with so much zeal; and deserving of that extended patronage, in the West and South, which, from its location, it might be made to acquire. As it was no part of the policy of the Trustees, to bring about this beneficial change by disturbing incumbents, who, as they were not selected for their knowledge, could not, consistently, be removed for their ignorance, our correspondence terminated with my reply. They had, as they thought, appeased the feelings of my friends, by offering me a place, which they *knew*, beforehand, I would not accept, and, therefore, considered a further step unnecessary. Still, all con-



cerned in the institution, paid me the compliment, of seeing the sword of Damocles suspended over their heads, and their whole policy was shaped, as throughout the preceding five years, not to strengthen themselves against the expected blow, but to elude it. In short, to sustain the existing organization, and thwart the schemes of revolution, which they apprehended I had in train, were the animating principles of all their acts and doings! It was mortifying, to see an institution which I had projected in the high hopes of earlier days, for the establishment of which I had labored four years, and, for the honor of which I cherished a sleepless anxiety,—confided to men who had no higher aims, or nobler ambition, than to exhaust the time they should have devoted to study, and the prosperity of the institution, in watching the movements of an humble individual! Meanwhile, I was, for three years, a mere looker-on; and, quietly occupied in the study and practice of my profession, concocted none of the many plans of Medical College reform, which the terrified imaginations of the Faculty, enabled them to espy in my ordinary actions.

I was not, however, indifferent to the character of the state and city, as far as it was involved in the degraded state of our College; nor satisfied with my own condition, as the first public teacher, in medicine, (however humble,) who had arisen in the state; but I resolved to let the College alone, and refused several invitations, to co-operate in plans for its melioration, because I thought they would prove abortive.

Perceiving, at last, that the policy of the Board was unchangeable, and that no hopes of a spontaneous reform need any longer be indulged, I began to think, seriously, on the organization of a new school; which would either supersede, or revolutionize, the College Faculty, and prove worthy of the state. I conjectured, however, that it would be extremely difficult to convince eminent men, in other parts of the United States, of the weakness of the institution already here; and that I should, on that account, and that only, find it difficult to make up an able Faculty. And, here I must be permitted to say, that I could not but deeply regret, that the Trustees of the College, would not authorize me to seek out for it, a Faculty that would place it on a footing, with any other institution in the country, convinced as I was, that I could obtain such an one; and I now, solemnly, declare (from what I learned in a visit to the East soon afterwards,) that if I had been thus commissioned, *I could have obtained for the institution, a body of Professors, equal in point of talents, learning, and reputation, to any others in America.*

But to return to my narrative. Early in the year 1830, while pondering on this subject, I was unexpectedly offered the Chair of the Theory and Practice in Jefferson College, Philadelphia, which I accepted, on the condition that I might resign it at the end of my first course of lectures, if I chose. Finding that by this event, I should soon be placed under favorable circumstances for selecting Professors, for a new Western Institution, I applied to the Trustees of Miami University, for a warrant. I believed, if an able Faculty could be organized, one of two consequences would ensue—the General Assembly would either *reform* the Trustees of the College, and appoint men who would bring the new Professors into that institution; or they would turn over the College edifice, and other property, to the University, in trust for its medical department; and by vacating the Board of Trustees and Faculty, of the former, terminate all its operations;—either of which results, would benefit the public, as far as the new Faculty might be superior to the old. With these views, communicated to a number of respectable citizens of Cincinnati, and various parts of the State, and approved by them all, I made

a personal application to the Board of Trustees of the University, at the public Commencement of 1830. Convinced, as I suppose, of the incompetency of the existing College Faculty; desirous of advancing the interests of science; of opinion, as may be presumed, that a body of Medical Professors, resident in Cincinnati, would exert a beneficial influence, in favor of the Academical Department of the University; and, aware, that its charter was older than that of the College;—the Trustees, liberally and promptly, granted the request; and, appointing me Professor of the Institutes and Practice, and Dean of the Faculty, authorized me to select and nominate my colleagues.

With this commission, I departed for Philadelphia, and turned my attention towards its execution. Then it was, that I found, as I have already stated, that the existence of the College in Cincinnati, was the only obstacle, to an affirmative answer from several gentlemen, distinguished in other Universities; and, that if my power of nomination, had been derived from the College, I could have filled its Faculty with professors, who would have crowded its halls with pupils, the first session. However, notwithstanding the difficulties, which beset the undertaking, I succeeded in forming an abler Faculty than Cincinnati had as yet known; and, in the month of February, sent on their names to the Trustees of the University at Oxford, who immediately confirmed the nominations, and announced their new Department.

A fresh paroxysm of terror, by this time, convulsed the College; and both Professors and Trustees, turned instinctively to the General Assembly for protection. An elaborate memorial was presented to that body by a committee of the Board—praising the Faculty, and praying for a law to estop the University. The petition was referred to a committee of the Senate. Arriving soon afterwards in Columbus, on my way back from Philadelphia, I drew up and presented a remonstrance—asking the Legislature to let us alone—which was referred to the same committee. While the subject was under consideration, its Chairman, and the Agent of the Board, requested an interview with me, when they, jointly, proposed, as a compromise, that myself, and two of my colleagues, Drs. Eberle, and McClellan, should leave the University, and enter the College; three of its (able and lauded) Professors being displaced, to make way for us. I told them, at once, that I felt myself pledged, both publicly and privately, not to desert any of my colleagues for the purpose of entering the College; that Drs. Mitchell, Staughton and Henry, would remain unprovided for, and that *nothing* could induce me to leave them behind; facts which were known, at the time, to one of your own body, and which, for several reasons, I wish you all to remember. I further stated, what at *that* time, I thought self-evident, that the Agent, who was, also, a member of the Board of College Trustees, had no power to bind that institution; but I have since perceived, that *his* wishes, suggest the rules of action of the honorable Board.

Meanwhile, numerous petitions from Cincinnati and various parts of the state, were sent to the Legislature, praying it *not* to estop the Miami University; all of which were referred to the same Committee with the memorial. Under these circumstances the Committee determined *not* to report a bill of estoppel against the University; but recommended the passage of a law, for increasing the Trustees of the College, from eleven to twenty, with instructions to re-organize the Faculty. Before this report was called up in the Senate, it was recollected, that the triennial election of College Trustees, would take place the next winter; and, by common consent, the whole business was laid over to the opening of the ensuing session. Thus the application of the

College for a law to suppress the Miami School, led to a report, by a committee of the friends of the former, declaring that a re-organization was necessary! Such an unexpected result, was well calculated to aggravate the fears of all persons connected with that establishment; and, they, forthwith, resolved to seek in the courts of justice, that protection which the General Assembly had denied them. Accordingly, two of their Professors becoming informers, before the Mayor of Cincinnati, deposed to that which would enable the Trustees to apply for a writ of *quo warranto*, against the University. A motion was forthwith made, in the Supreme Court of Butler county, and argued in favor of the College, by counsel, prompted and instructed by the President of the Board. The Court gave no opinion on the merits of the application, but carried up the whole matter to the annual convocation of the judges in Columbus.

The Trustees of the College, now becoming desperate, bethought themselves of a compromise, and began to proscribe several of the Professors whom for years, and just before, in their circulars and memorials, they had praised and flattered, and recommended to the confidence of the profession in the West, a fact which I hope you will remember. They seemed to feel, that their official character for sagacity, tact and vigilance, would be in danger, if they suffered a rival school to spring up in Cincinnati. They foresaw that the General Assembly might charge them with mismanagement, and elect others in their stead, the ensuing winter. They could not endure the mortification, that a single, unaided individual, whom in conversation they and their Professors, had, so often, represented as a factious, but harmless, because, a fallen man, should have succeeded in organizing, under the very walls of the College, an able Faculty than that which had for eight years, vegetated in its halls. They were, in short, sorely troubled in spirit, and bent, as ulterior proceedings demonstrated, on practising a *ruse de guerre*.

As I had refused, in Columbus, to abandon any of my associates, the scheme now was, to induce a part of them to abandon me; and thus to break up the Miami Faculty. But the enterprise was not without its difficulties. They could not hope, that, unless, I were offered a place in the College also, the professors whom but two months before, I had refused to desert, could be induced to leave me; but they knew that I would not re-enter it, with Dr. Smith there, nor while any of my colleagues were left behind; and, therefore, they felt assured, that in tendering me a situation, there was no *danger* of my acceptance.

In this state of mind, they proceeded to revive the old seventh professorship of the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence; and, at the same time, did that, which they ought to have done long before, but which they refused to do in 1827—declare all the professorships vacant. This being accomplished, they elected Drs. Mitchell and Staughton, to the chairs of Chemistry and Obstetrics, and, myself, not to the Theory and Practice, which, I originally held, and from which I had been expelled, but to the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence. To the other four chairs, they meant, as soon as Drs. Staughton and Mitchell accepted, to re-elect their late incumbents, Drs. Smith, Cobb, Moorhead, and Pierson. You will naturally ask why they did not do this at the same time, they made a draft upon the Miami School? I answer, that as I had told some members and confidential friends of the Board, but a few hours before these proceedings took place, that I never would, again, act with Dr. Smith, common decency required that they should put him out, long enough to *take me in*.

Such were the circumstances, under which I was offered a reinstatement in



the College. Circumstances which the Board knew must prevent my acceptance. I repeat which they knew,—for only an hour before the appointment was made, I told one of its members, on his way to the meeting, that I could not, and would not be faithless to my colleagues nor go into the College except all of them were provided for. You may think it strange, that with this knowledge, they should have proceeded to appoint me. I certainly thought it so myself. You will agree with me, that, they felt and perceived, that I could not accept without dishonor; and, was it not insulting, to hunt me up, and propose to me to do that, by which I should be disgraced in the eyes of every honorable man, who might witness it? When I had let them alone, in the quiet possession of an institution projected by myself, and amply endowed by the state; and, unassisted by others, had organized a new Faculty here, which any citizen had a right to do, was it not a *little* action, to labor with my colleagues, excite their fears, and endeavor to draw them from the enterprise, in which we had engaged under reciprocal pledges of fidelity? I cannot view it otherwise. If they had been ignorant of engagements on my part, which could not be violated without disgrace, the case would have been entirely different. As it was, they saw the dilemma in which their cunning placed me—if I accepted, I was disgraced,—if I refused, and a part of my associates could be frightened into a desertion of the rest, the Miami project was a failure, and myself brought into derision. I dwell the longer on this stratagem, because, some of my friends were made to believe, that in this offer, the Board had, at last, designed to make reparation, for my unjust expulsion, from the School. If offering me that, which they were assured I could not accept, without a sacrifice of principle, was performing an act of justice, then I have no further claims; and, if an attempt to bribe a fellow citizen into the paths of dishonor, was compatible with sound morality, why then the character of the institution, on *this* point, is unstained.

When I received this, *pro forma*, invitation, and heard of the election of two of my colleagues, and that all the old Professors of the College were displaced, I perceived that a revolution had commenced; but did not pretend to foresee its course or termination. I believed, however, that, but one school would emerge from the chaos, and was anxious that it should be composed of the best possible materials. My appointment was dated on the 11th of June, and on the 14th I returned an answer—neither declining nor accepting—from which I shall transcribe the following paragraph: “Some of my (Miami) colleagues are now here, and others are preparing to join us from a distance.—To the whole I am under pledges, both implied and expressed, not to prove unfaithful to our common cause. I must, therefore, be allowed time, not only to consult those in the city; but, also, those in Philadelphia, and my final answer must turn, in a great degree, upon the replies I may receive from them.”

On the 5th of July, having received letters from Philadelphia, I addressed the following to the Board of Trustees:

“CINCINNATI, July 5th, 1830.

*To the Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio.*

GENTLEMEN,—In my letter to the committee of nomination, I stated my earnest desire to re-enter the Medical College, and the pleasure it would afford me to lend my feeble assistance to your honorable body, in rendering it, forthwith, one of the most distinguished institutions in America; but at the same time I informed them, that I was under inviolable pledges to my colleagues, that I would not desert any of them in this stage of our enterprise. Dr. McClellan has engaged himself by written covenants, for one year, which are equally binding on Drs. Staughton, Henry and myself, but his case could be met by us, by paying him the stipulated sum. The case, however, is different with Dr. Eberle, who is

one of our permanent professors, has a guaranty for a term of years, and is already prepared to remove to this city. Of the character of this gentleman, I may say, that he is an able lecturer, and one of the most distinguished writers on *Materia Medica* and the Practice of Physic, which this country has yet produced. He is withal an eminent Botanist, and as well acquainted with the Medical Botany of the United States as any other individual within its limits. His mind is strongly bent on this branch of science, as he is coming to a new country; and it is his design to deliver, every year, a course of lectures on that subject; hence Botany was at his own request, added to the Professorship which he now holds. In confirmation of the whole of this, I could, if time had permitted, have obtained a volume of testimony. What has come into my hands, I herewith transmit to the honorable Board.

Dr. Henry is as yet, comparatively an untried man, but the documents which accompany this communication will show to your honorable body, that I did not select him without sufficient reason. I was desirous of having in the school, a native of the West, the more certainly to secure its sympathies with the institution. I also wished to have one, if possible, from Kentucky, not only because it might make a diversion from the Lexington school; but because, as the manners and customs of that state are the same as those of the other slave states to which we must look for the majority of our pupils, he would be acceptable to the students from that region. Of the estimation in which he is held in Kentucky, and the southern parts of Indiana and Illinois, I need say nothing, in addition to the ample and highly respectable testimony contained in the recommendations I herewith transmit.

It has been hinted to me that my engagements with this gentleman are, perhaps, not such, but that I might disregard them, without dishonor to myself or disadvantage to him; but this is a mistake. 1st. After I determined to choose Dr. Henry, his friends rendered me valuable assistance in obtaining a warrant from the University, and acted under my declaration to them, that I meant to nominate him to the Trustees.

2d. The disclosure of this to him, determined his residence in this city.

3d. He promptly united with Dr. Staughton and myself, in offering and executing guaranties, to the amount of near seven thousand dollars, and is, therefore, one of the founders of the Miami school.

From this statement the Board will at once perceive, that no considerations on earth could justify my desertion of him, while the memorials in his favor equally evince that he is a gentleman whose co-operation is likely to be of substantial and permanent value.

The circumstance of his having studied his profession with Dr. Richardson, the professor of *Obstetrics* in Transylvania University, is, *prima facie*, evidence that his mind was turned, at an early period, to the subjects of the professorship which he now holds. Dr. Richardson's opinion of him I have long known. He always regarded him as one of the most talented pupils he ever had, and used to speak of him to me as a suitable person for a chair in Transylvania.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAN. DRAKE."

In connexion with this letter, I transmitted one from the Reverend and venerable president of Miami University, in which he exhorted me, in language the most solemn, not to desert any of my colleagues, and, at the same time, expressed the opinion, that if they should all be invited, and accept appointments in the College, the Trustees of the University, would acquiesce in the arrangement; as, in fact, they did, by a formal resolution, in the succeeding September.

Two days after my letter was sent, the Board held another meeting, at which I could not have expected them to make any further efforts upon the Miami Faculty, unless they invited *all*, except Dr. McClellan, whom I was authorized to omit in the arrangement; but such was not their course. The result of their labors at this meeting was the following:—Leaving Dr. Mitchell and myself in the chairs to which we had been appointed, they gave up Dr. Smith, and transferred Dr. Staughton from *Obstetrics* to *Surgery*; they then assigned the former chair to Dr. Pierson, who had, previously, held *Materia Medica*, to which they now elected Dr. Eberle: and, reinstating Dr. Moorhead in the Theory and Practice, and Dr. Cobb in Anatomy, presented their second protocol. This arrangement, you will observe, left Dr. Henry unprovided for,

and, consequently, I was by my early pledges still precluded from accepting, and Dr. Eberle refused to do so, unless I did; and Dr. Henry was also embraced in the arrangement.

While this was going forward, the most unjustifiable efforts were made to depreciate the character of Dr. Henry, then a stranger, in Cincinnati; and I was represented, as adhering to him, not from regard to declarations, (made long before,) of fidelity to *all* my colleagues; but from personal friendship; though I had never seen him but three times, prior to my return from Philadelphia, four months previously! The fact was that Dr. Henry stood in the way of Dr. Pierson's restoration, as *his* chair had been given to Dr. Eberle, and some other must be found for him. Now you will naturally inquire who Dr. Pierson is, and why the Board, in attempting to build up a new and abler faculty, by seducing off the members of a rival school, should have adhered, so pertinaciously, to him? I will inform you. Dr. Pierson is a resident of the city of New York, where he has so limited a practice, that he finds it an object, to leave both it and his family, and spend half the year in Cincinnati, for the paltry income of a few hundred dollars, which the College has hitherto yielded. Of his lecture room celebrity, and his connexions and sympathies with the West, you know as much as myself. But, a leading member of the Board, is his brother-in-law, and this is the true secret of his value to the School. This brother-in-law, is the neighbor and friend of the ten other Trustees, who compose that body, and how could it be expected, that they would oppose his wishes, or speak out their sentiments and opinions, when he was present! Here, then, is an evidence, of the impolicy of committing a richly endowed *state* institution, for public instruction, to a small body of *city* Trustees, who fill their own vacancies, and at the end of every three years, promote their own reelection, by personal efforts with the Legislature. I look upon this error in the construction of the Board of Trustees, as the source of all the degradation and inferiority, under which the College has laboured; and am quite convinced, that it will never assume an elevated rank, till its government is placed in the hands of a Board, which from its numbers, and their scattered location, cannot be brought under the sinister influence, of two or three managers, in their own body; or two or three Professors, who may recommend themselves, to the Trustees, by personal attentions and subserviency.

The second arrangement of the Faculty, which I have just detailed, seemed to me, to be the prelude to a crisis. I had facts in my possession, which I need not here detail, which left no doubt on my mind, and that of my friends, that the Miami Faculty was in reality broken up. With this conviction, it only remained to render the crisis as salutary as possible. As I would not enter the College myself, while a single colleague was left behind, and as Dr. Eberle, would not join it unless I did, and Dr. Henry was, also, offered a place; and as I had, at that time, no hope, that under all the circumstances, he and Dr. McClellan, would wish to prosecute the Miami project, I felt myself reduced to the necessity, of either relinquishing altogether the subject of Medical Education, in Cincinnati, or of devising some mode of bringing in Dr. Henry, and at the same time, retaining Dr. Pierson, to whom, I found the Board, were determined to adhere at every hazard to the institution; which was then in a state of decomposition, not four months before the lectures were to commence. Under these circumstances it was, that, as a means of final Union, between the two schools, and of saving the interests of Medical instruction, in the city from total shipwreck, I proposed the eighth professorship—that of Clinical Medicine. I was aware, that the limits of that chair, would be very restricted,



and on that account, to obviate the objection of Dr. Pierson's friends, proposed to take it myself, and by yielding the Institutes to him, make way for Dr. Henry, into the chair of Obstetrics, which he held in the Miami School.

Still further, to preclude the objections which the Board might raise, to the expense of an eighth professorship, I proposed that it should be left *optional with the students to take or omit my ticket*. My friends, not less than myself, were apprehensive that such a chair, unconnected with any other, could not be sustained; but I knew, and said so to them, that if it were found deficient in subjects, I could resign it in the spring; when I should have, at least the gratification, of seeing my colleagues provided, in the College, with the same chairs they held in the University, and the School considerably improved in its composition and character.

Accordingly, I addressed to the Board the following plan of consolidation.

"CINCINNATI, July 7th, 1831.

GENTLEMEN,—In further reply to your note, offering me the Professorship of the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence, in the Medical College of Ohio, I beg leave to suggest the following plan of consolidation as the only one, as far as I know, that can leave me at liberty to accept a chair in the Institution.

#### PLAN OF CONSOLIDATION.

*Anatomy*, Dr. Cobb,  
*Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence*, Dr. Pierson,  
*Theory and Practice of Medicine*, Dr. Moorhead,  
*Surgery*, Dr. Staughton,  
*Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children*, Dr. Henry,  
*Materia Medica and Botany*, Dr. Eberle,  
*Chemistry and Pharmacy*, Dr. Mitchell,  
*Clinical Medicine*, Dr. Drake.

I would prefer the chair to which I have affixed my name, to the one offered to me by the Board; but if the friends of Dr. Pierson, would prefer to place him in that chair, I will acquiesce.

If the Board fear an injurious augmentation of expense, I will accept either of these chairs without having it obligatory on the students, to take my ticket.

I am induced to make this suggestion, by the hope that it will promote that consolidation, which your honourable body have expressed a desire to effect, and which could not fail to prove beneficial to the interests of society.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAN. DRAKE.

To the Hon. Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio."

The Board met the same evening, and, as Dr. Pierson's interests were no longer in question, they promptly agreed to the compromise, and forthwith announced the consolidated Faculty. They did not, however, leave it optional, but made it obligatory, on the students, who meant to graduate, to take my ticket; in doing which, the sagacious members of that body, doubtless foresaw, that the period of my connexion with the school was dated. For as my range of subjects would be too limited, to enable me to give satisfaction to the class, it would soon become necessary to abolish the chair, and thus dissolve my connexion with the School. However, as the union could be effected in no other way, I suffered no misgivings about the result, to generate a serious regret at the arrangement.

The third Faculty of the College was now perfected; a new epoch commenced, and with it new difficulties, and new acts of a favouritism, in the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Pierson was in New York, and when his appointment to the Institutes was sent to him (that to Obstetrics had not been forwarded) he returned for

answer, that he would accept the chair, if the Board would allow him a year for preparation! My friends and myself, now thought that this answer would enable the Board to terminate the greatest difficulty under which the institution labored. Dr. Pierson had no claims upon them, to allow him a year for preparation; one third of that period would actually elapse before he must lecture; by refusing his request, and uniting the Institutes to Clinical Medicine, I would have a good professorship, and the number would be reduced to seven, which the Board had professed to regard as the most suitable.

Very different, however, was their course. They met to consider his conditional acceptance, and the following resolution sets forth the result of their profound and impartial deliberations, on the interests of the institution.

*“Resolved,—That the course of lectures, to be delivered from the chair of the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence, be suspended for one year; and that the Board of Faculty be respectfully requested to distribute the duties of that chair, at the approaching session, among themselves, in such manner as they may judge most expedient; and to increase the price of the tickets for the next session, of those professors, whose duties will be augmented by the arrangement, so as to prevent the aggregate fees of the next course, from being reduced below the sum of ninety-nine dollars, exclusive of the matriculation fee.”*

August 24th, 1831.

It was now settled that the Board intended to adhere to Dr. Pierson. Were they under any obligation to do so? I think not. If they violated his *rights* in transferring him from Materia Medica to the Institutes, in their gratuitous efforts to break up the Miami Faculty, they ought not to have done it: If they committed no such violation, why, then they were under no obligation to keep the professorship open for him, while he was schooling himself for it, and compel his colleagues to perform his duties. Dr. Henry had never lectured before in any public institution; and he did not ask a year for preparation: Had he done so, the Board would have laughed at his request.

In obedience to the resolution of the Board, the Faculty proceeded to divide the chair of the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence, for the ensuing winter. To myself they assigned the former, while the latter was distributed among the other professors, according to the nature of the subjects which compose it.

Soon after this, the session opened; and, although the Faculty was in a state of decomposition, till after the time when a circular should have gone forth; and I was placed in a station which, my intelligent medical friends could not fail to perceive, would not admit of my doing much, and, therefore, the little attraction I might have exerted on pupils was greatly reduced, still the class was larger than the College ever presented before.

The lectures commenced, and the first three weeks were sufficient to establish the unpleasant fact, that Clinical Medicine could not be sustained as a *separate* chair. The wards of the Hospital were too small to admit the entire class, and its Trustees, uneducated and superstitious men, instead of promoting *post mortem* examinations, sought rather to prevent them.

In the month of December, the students, by an almost unanimous vote, represented these facts to the Board of Trustees, in a respectful memorial; to which that body gave no reply; and on the second of January, the class sent another petition to the General Assembly, representing the same facts, and praying that honorable body to re-organize and enlarge the Board.

The following is a copy of this memorial, as it was passed by a large vote of the Class; but the committee to whom the engrossing and transmitting of it to the Legislature were confided, out of courtesy, as I understood, to some



of their fellow students, omitted that part which contained a criticism on the organization of the Faculty, but retained what related to the enlargement of the Board, and to post mortem examinations in the Hospital.

The following is a copy of the resolution as it was adopted by the vote of a decided majority of the largest class which the College ever had.

*"To the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:*

We, the undersigned, pupils of, and constituting the class of the Medical College of Ohio, beg leave respectfully to present to your honorable body the following memorial on the state of the institution.

The number of Professorships established in the College is eight: while in most of the schools in the United States, there are but six; in many, five; and in none, the number recently instituted in this College. There are, however, but seven professors in commission this winter, one having remained east of the mountains to prepare himself for his lectures; his duties, *ad interim*, being confided to one of his colleagues. According to our experience and observation, *seven professors are amply sufficient*; and we believe that the school is more likely to be useful and flourishing with that number than with eight. We are informed that your honorable body are about to re-elect a Board of Trustees. Without cherishing the least sentiment of disrespect to the present honorable Board, we would respectfully suggest to your honorable body, the propriety of increasing the number, and of introducing several intelligent and influential gentlemen from other parts of the state, in the hope that they might pursue a different policy from that to which the existing Board is pledged, and which seems to us is fraught with injury to the institution.

We would also respectfully inform your honorable body, that the managers of the Hospital have thrown obstructions in the way of the Faculty of the College, in their attempts to examine, in the Hospital, before interment, the bodies of those, who die in that public charity; which examinations are practised in all other Hospitals, and afford very precious advantages to students of medicine, as by such examinations, better than by any other means, the causes and seats of disease can be known. Therefore, your petitioners would respectfully solicit, that your honorable body will pass a law requiring the managers of the Hospital to permit the professors of the College to make such examinations for the benefit of the pupils of the institution.

J. T. TELLER, Chairman,

Medical College of Ohio, January 2nd, 1832."

Their memorial, I believe, was not acted upon by the Legislature; nor, as far as I know, was the report of the Senatorial Committee of the preceding session, recommending the same thing, ever called up. But early in January, the President and Secretary of the Board, having made a circuitous journey to Columbus, effected, by a silent vote of the Legislature, the re-appointment of the old Trustees, with a single substitution.

Thus all hopes of a radical reform, and a just, impartial, and liberal administration of the affairs of the institution, were blasted. The Trustees were elected for three years, unless the Legislature should please to supersede them with others; and not choosing to remain for that length of time, a supernumerary of the Faculty, I saw that no alternative was left me but to resign,—the result which the Board had constantly wished to produce. They had balanced between Dr. Pierson and myself, and preferred retaining him to keeping me. Accordingly, on the 19th of January, 1832, I, confidentially, transmitted to them, the following letter of resignation, in the terms and temper of which, I trust you will find nothing to condemn.

"CINCINNATI, Jan. 19th, 1832.

*To the Honorable Board of Trustees, of the Medical College of Ohio.*

GENTLEMEN:—Last summer, when I suggested and agreed to accept the chair of Clinical Medicine, in the Medical College of Ohio, as the only means in my power of effecting the union of the Medical Department of the Miami University, with the College, an object which you had originated and were anxious to accomplish, my chief motive was to prevent the in-

terests of medical education, in Cincinnati, from being seriously injured by a protracted negotiation. At the moment of devising the professorship, I felt an apprehension, that its subjects and limits would be too restricted in the existing condition of the Hospital, to afford me an opportunity of being useful to the class; but I felt and perceived, that a state of things had been produced by others, which left me no alternative, and I accepted the chair, resolving, if my apprehensions should be realized, to resign it at the end of the first session.

When the chair of the Institutes was declined by the gentleman, (*Dr. Pierson, of New York*), to whom it was offered, unless he were allowed a year for preparation, and I saw that branch assigned to me, (*for the time being*), by the unanimous vote of the Faculty, I cherished the hope, that your honorable body would not grant the favor, which he solicited; but, at once, confirm the union of the Institutes with Clinical Medicine, and by reducing the number of chairs from eight to seven, afford me a sufficient amount of duties. You have, however, preferred a different course, and I am, therefore, compelled, to request you to accept my resignation; which I wish to take effect immediately after the next public commencement.

Thirteen years have this day elapsed, since I had the honor to solicit and obtain from our Legislature, the charter of the college; and to be appointed President and Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine. From that day down to the present anniversary, whether belonging to it, or to other institutions, in different and distant cities, the Medical College of Ohio, has never ceased; nor can it hereafter cease, to be with me an object of the deepest interest. Therefore it is that I send in my resignation before the end of the session, that your honorable body may be able to make and promulgate arrangements for the next course of lectures, before the class shall disperse.

In taking a final leave of an institution, which for many years, has been an object of affection, but to the prosperity of which I can no longer contribute the influence of my feeble exertions, I cannot forego the opportunity of expressing a hope, that it will continue to flourish, until it shall reach the high distinction and impart the solid advantages, anticipated in its foundation.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAN. DRAKE."

You will perceive, from the tenor of this letter, and its being sent confidentially, that I delicately suggested to them, what several of my friends and colleagues had already done to individual Trustees, that I should be happy to continue in the school, on the united chairs of the Institutes and Clinical Medicine. They had, then, a fair and final opportunity to retain me, if they chose; a fact, which I hope you will not forget. So far, however, from proposing any thing of the kind, or conferring with me officially or unofficially on the subject, they promptly accepted my resignation, recording their votes by yeas and nays, and then had not even the courtesy to give me a reply. Certain members of the Board, however, immediately began to tell my friends, that if I had remained in the College, the Trustees would have given me any place that I desired! Thus, after creating and sustaining a state of things which they foresaw would compel me to leave the school, and declining to give me the Institutes—*which they soon after abolished*—when I should have remained, they had the insincerity to throw the blame of the separation on myself!

I now supposed, that the period of revolution had passed, and that each of the remaining seven professors, would be continued in the chair assigned him the preceding summer. But it was soon discoverable, that a Halcyon period had not yet arrived; and I here commence the history of a new, and still more complicated operation, of which Dr. Pierson's wishes are again the end and aim.

That gentleman, it would seem, had found himself overmatched by the Institutes, and of course he must be, finally, brought back to *Materia Medica*. But that chair was filled by Dr. Eberle, who was unwilling to exchange. Still the interests of Dr. Pierson must be looked after, at every hazard. The first act in the plot, was to *abolish* the chair, for which he had been, six months preparing himself; and which, but a few weeks before they refused to assign to

me. This being done, he must be provided for, by displacing some one from the school. The lot, of course, was destined to fall on Dr. Henry; whom they had, the summer before, pronounced unqualified, and whose expulsion would prove the correctness of their opinion! But, then a difficulty existed. Dr. Pierson *must* have Materia Medica, and Dr. Eberle, would *not* have Obstetrics! This difficulty suggested the second act of the drama. The friends of Dr. Pierson proposed to Dr. Eberle, and his friends in the Board, to unite with them, in compelling Dr. Moorhead to step down to Obstetrics, that Dr. Eberle might step up into the Theory and Practice, and thus vacate Materia Medica to Dr. Pierson! The third act of the play, was to get from the professors a sanction for abolishing the chair of the Institutes. Accordingly, they sent to the Dean of the Faculty, the following preamble and resolution, which you will observe, contain, in the manner of a leading question to a witness, a clear indication of the kind of answer which they wished and expected the Faculty to give. It was dated on the 22d of February.

"The Trustees having *understood*, that several medical men of experience and judgment, have expressed an opinion, that the condition of the Medical College of Ohio, would be improved, and its *utility increased* by reducing the number of professorships to six,—Therefore, Resolved, that the Board of Faculty be respectfully requested to communicate to the Board of Trustees their opinion on that subject."

Now, the chair of Institutes was established in 1827, and put, unsuccessfully, into market. It was, again, put forth in 1831. On both occasions, the Trustees spoke of it, as an important and dignified chair, the institution of which was approved by the Faculty. Who then are the "medical men of judgment and experience," who opened the eyes of the honorable Board to the error they had committed? Certainly not the existing professors, for they are applied to for an opinion. I presume not the professors whom a few months before they had dismissed from the College. Undoubtedly, not the respectable and intelligent physicians of the city, who have never belonged to the institution, for I believe, without an exception, they laughed at and condemned the reduction. Who then were these sapient friends of the Board, that for once, and once only, vouchsafed to light up its benighted path? No one, I believe, has yet found them out. Taken collectively, they are the "Great Unknown," and will probably descend to the grave with the gratitude of no citizen of Ohio, but the honorable Trustees.

You will observe that the resolution calls for the opinion, not of the individual professors, but of the "*Board of Faculty*." It will strike you as curious, then, that the Faculty was not convened on the occasion, for a free and full discussion of the subject, and a regular vote. Instead of this, the Dean sent a note to each of the professors, requesting his separate opinion. Being still, *de facto*, a member of the school, one was sent to me. The following was my answer, which I preferred, to address and send directly to the Trustees.

"CINCINNATI, Feb. 22, 1832.

*To the President of the Board of Trustees, Medical College of Ohio.*

SIR,—I have, this evening, received from the Dean of the Faculty, a copy of a preamble and resolution of the Honorable Board of Trustees, calling upon the Faculty, for an opinion, on the expediency of reducing the number of professorships to six, and, in obedience to the wishes of the Dean for an immediate reply, proceed to answer the inquiry.

I am of opinion that every Medical School *should* have at least seven professorships. There is little room for diversity of sentiment, as to Anatomy, Surgery, Materia Medica, Ob-



stetries, and Chemistry; but in reference to the Institutes and Practice of Medicine, a doubt might exist. In some schools, both branches are confided to one person; but the duty is too extensive, and the best schools of Europe and the United States, if I am not misinformed, have two, and sometimes three persons, on these branches. In the new London University, projected by the Hon. Mr. Brougham and his distinguished associates, with the experience of Europe to guide them, Mr. Charles Bell, one of the most celebrated men of the age, was appointed on a *part* of the Institutes.

About four years ago, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania found it necessary to separate the Institutes from the Practice, as, even, Dr. Chapman, could not carry on both; and Dr. Jackson, one of the most able and eloquent lecturers in the U. S., was appointed to the former. In Baltimore, they have had, from the beginning, a professor of the Institutes, distinct from the Practice, although the latter was held by a gentleman of great talents and erudition, Dr. Potter. In Lexington, ever since the reorganization of the school in 1819, the Institutes and Practice have been carried on by two men—the former by Dr. Caldwell, the latter by Dr. Brown, myself and Dr. Cooke in succession. These three have generally had the largest classes of any schools in America. I may add, that Drs. McClellan and Eberle, in founding the Jefferson School, established a chair of the Institutes, notwithstanding Dr. Eberle himself was to fill that of the Practice of Medicine. In the Medical College of Ohio, I have lectured four times a week on the Institutes throughout the session which is now closing, and am not yet through; while the Professor of the Practice of Physic, is, I am informed, so far from having completed a full course, that many large groups of common and dangerous diseases, have not even been entered upon, although he has lectured regularly six times a week. On the whole, therefore, I am compelled to say that the “medical men of experience and judgment,” who have advised the honorable Board that six professorships are better than seven, have expressed opinions at variance with the spirit and practice of the age, and such as cannot be adopted without injury to the College.

I have the honor to be respectfully, your ob<sup>d</sup>t. serv<sup>t</sup>.

DAN. DRAKE.

P. S. I feel it due to myself to state that in projecting the Miami School, I made several unsuccessful efforts to obtain a Professor of the Institutes; and had, finally, to leave them in connection with the Practice.”

Dr. Eberle and Dr. Henry informed me, that their answers were of the same import with mine. Of the rest I know nothing. Whatever they might have been, the Trustees now spoke without reserve of executing their predetermined purpose; and it was soon understood by the students, and medical public generally in the city, that the changes which I have already indicated, would shortly be made.

In this state of things, the respectful sympathies of the Class became enlisted for Dr. Henry; who in addition to being proscribed, was calumniated in every variety of mode, which the subservient friends of the Board and their coadjutors of the Hospital, could invent. Among the various slanders, was a declaration by the Trustees of the Hospital, that he had grossly neglected his duties in that establishment, and maltreated his patients. On this he challenged a public investigation. It was made by a committee of the Faculty, and resulted in the following triumphant acquittal by that body.

“Resolved, that from the report of the committee appointed to enquire into the validity of the allegations made by the Trustees of the Commercial Hospital, in a communication addressed by them to the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, it does not appear, that there is any truth or correctness in any of the charges or criminations made in said communication, against the Professor of Obstetrics.

Resolved, that the result of this investigation be communicated forthwith to the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio.”

Both resolutions were passed unanimously.

Of his lectures, stories equally unfounded and cruel, were industriously circulated; but they were spontaneously met and refuted by the Class, who presented to the Board of Trustees the following address:—

"The undersigned, students of the Medical College of Ohio, having understood that it is rumored abroad, that they are much dissatisfied with the lectures of Professor Henry, deem it but an act of justice to that Gentleman, to say, that there is no just foundation for such a rumor—that they have derived much instruction from him—that he has earnestly and perspicuously travelled over the subjects usually treated by a Professor of Obstetrics, and the diseases of Women and Children—and that considering this as his first course, they are of the opinion that he has, and is acquitting himself with advantage to the pupils, and credit to the Institution." (Signed by 69 members of the class.)

Feb. 15th, 1832.

This address was subscribed by a majority of all the pupils, who attended the College during the winter; although when it was drawn up, more than forty of them had left the city. An opposing address was gotten up and signed, as I understood, by 5 or 7! In addition, a majority of all the graduates on Commencement day, drew up, and put Dr. Henry in possession of another memorial, equally strong; but it was stemming the cataract; his doom was fixed; Dr. Pierson could not be replaced in *Materia Medica*, unless Dr. Henry should be expelled, although, it would be in violation of the compact and consolidation of the preceding summer; of the expressed wishes and petitions of the Class; and of the request of a considerable number of highly respectable and intelligent citizens and physicians, who likewise interested themselves in his favor.

While this last act of the drama was in performance, a majority of the graduates present on Commencement day, drew up and presented to the Board, a petition, requesting them, to drop Dr. Pierson, transfer Dr. Moorhead to the Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence, and appoint me to the chair of Theory and Practice, which I originally held. This document I will give you presently. Being furnished with a copy of it, and still hearing it reported, that the Trustees were desirous of retaining me in the Institution when I resigned, and learning that they were about to vacate the chair from which I had been expelled, ten years before, I determined to test the sincerity of their professions, by asserting my claims, to that professorship. Accordingly, I addressed to them the following letter.

"CINCINNATI, March 15th, 1832.

GENTLEMEN,—When I resigned the professorship of Clinical Medicine, I had the impression that your honorable body would carry into full effect the arrangements made last summer, between the College and University, and I left the former, without the smallest design of being a candidate for readmission into its Faculty. I would willingly have remained in it, on the united professorships, of Clinical Medicine and the Institutes, and wrote to Dr. Pierson to that effect; but he and your honorable body, saw fit, to sustain his claims to future admission into the operative duties of the latter chair. On resigning, I cherished, as I have said, no expectations of re-joining the school; for I was determined never to enter it again but in the professorship of Theory and Practice; and I was equally determined, to do nothing that should disturb the existing incumbent of that chair; and it is far from being the object of this communication, to propose his removal from the school, or to any other chair, or in any way to distract the counsels of the Institution. It has, however, been communicated to me, that your honorable body have it in contemplation, to transfer him to another chair, and thus to change the state of things, which I had supposed was settled by the compromise of the 7th of July last. *Now, if this should be the case, but not otherwise,* I wish to be considered a candidate for the chair of Theory and Practice.

I was originally appointed to it, by the General Assembly, and lectured in it for two sessions. I was expelled from it. The Board thought me worthy of being reinstated; but previously to their acting on my case, I was under obligation to go to Lexington, on the chair of *Materia Medica*, and could not therefore accept. After a residence of two years in that town, as professor of *Materia Medica*, I was, on the resignation of professor Brown, by the unanimous voice of the pupils, professors and Trustees, and by the recommendation of several of my Cincinnati medical brethren, called to the chair of Theory and Practice.

The following is a copy of the memorial of the students on that occasion. It was signed by 191.

*' To the Chairman and Board of Trustees of Transylvania University.*

It has come to the knowledge of the undersigned, members of the Medical class in the Transylvania University, and other friends of Medical science in the West, that our venerable Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine is about to retire from the important station he fills with so much eclat in the School. In looking around for an individual to supply the station, and fill the void created by his resignation, we are forcibly drawn towards the Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Botany, as an individual, more eminently calculated, from his genius, Medical learning, and experience in the diseases of the West, to fill the station, than any other individual in the Western states. This arrangement, we humbly conceive, will not impair the value of Professor Drake's lectures on Materia Medica, as they can be adapted to practical purposes, while the Professor of the Institutes, and Clinical Medicine, and the Professor of Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and Children deal largely in Practical Medicine. Most of your petitioners feel more fully persuaded of the correctness and reasonableness of what they ask, from having heard Professor Drake in that department one month. We, therefore, hope, that these considerations, together with the ardent desire they feel for the welfare and prosperity of Transylvania, will be ample apology for the memorial they herewith respectfully present to its regents and patrons.' (Signed by 191.)

February, 1825.

The address of certain physicians of Cincinnati, one of whom was Dr. E. H. Pierson, then or afterwards, a member of your honorable body, was in the following words:

*' To the Faculty of the Medical Department of Transylvania University.*

The undersigned, Physicians of Cincinnati, learning that Dr. Brown has resigned his professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Transylvania University,—take the liberty of respectfully recommending their fellow citizen, Dr. Daniel Drake, at present professor of Materia Medica in that Institution, as a person eminently qualified from his talents, industry, and long practical experience, to fill the important chair thus vacated, in a manner, at once honorable to himself, and worthy of the University with which he is connected.

The undersigned are of opinion, that no individual could be chosen, possessing more entirely the confidence of the Medical men of Ohio, than Dr. Drake—and they cannot but believe that the best interests of the Medical School of Transylvania would be essentially promoted by his appointment.

Cincinnati, March 4th, 1825.'

This post I held for two years longer, then resigned, and returned to Cincinnati. While residing here, I was, by the unanimous concurrence of the Board of Trustees, and the Professors, of the Medical Department of Jefferson College, in Philadelphia, called, without the least previous knowledge on my part of their design, to the chair of Theory and Practice, which Dr. Eberle had previously held; but from which he was transferred to Materia Medica. In his letter, the Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Ely writes:

' The Additional Trustees of Jefferson College, to whom is committed, by statute of the State of Pennsylvania, the direction of the Medical Faculty of said College, having become acquainted, in various ways, with your distinguished character, as a teacher of the healing Art, have resolved to offer you the professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic in said College. By a perfectly unanimous vote of the Trustees, and agreeably to the wishes of the Professors in the Institution, I now have the pleasure of tendering to you the first chair in Jefferson Medical College, located in this city. Your acceptance will complete our arrangements, and much gratify us; while it will afford you, we flatter ourselves, an extensive field for usefulness, and even for increased celebrity.'

On receiving my acceptance, made on certain conditions, the Board instructed the Secretary to inform me that,

' Your favor of the 3d instant, and a duplicate of the same, have been duly received, and I am happy to inform you, that all persons concerned, have cheerfully agreed to the conditions on which you have accepted the Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Jefferson College.'

The sentiments of Drs. McClellan and Eberle, founders of the Jefferson School, in reference to my appointment, may be collected from the following extracts.—On receiving my acceptance, Dr. McClellan wrote as follows:



‘ I am happy, very happy, in welcoming you into our ranks. We consider you a very great acquisition; and so does the public. There is but one voice on the subject here, and that is strongly expressed in favor of our present organization. ’

On the same occasion, Dr. Eberle wrote in these words:

‘ I have just received your favor of the 3d inst. and am exceedingly gratified with its contents. Be assured that we *all* rejoice at the prospect of having your valuable services in our Institution, and we trust that your connection with it will turn out as satisfactory and advantageous to yourself, as we believe it will to us. ’

That I did not disappoint the expectations of these gentlemen, may be inferred from the fact, that both of them engaged, before the end of the session, to unite with me, in Cincinnati, as professors in the Miami School.

Previously to my going to Philadelphia, I was appointed to the chair of Theory and Practice, in the Medical department of the Miami University.

Thus, I have been five times elected to that Professorship, and have lectured on it, in three different Universities. That I have acquitted myself to my own satisfaction, is far from being true; but that I have not wholly failed to fulfil the hopes of my friends, I may infer, from the absence of all complaints by the different classes before which I have appeared; and from the memorials of a majority of the graduates at the late public commencement of the College; and a large proportion of the few undergraduates, still remaining in the city, recommending me for the chair of Theory and Practice, both of which, I understand, have been transmitted to your honorable body; but to present my case entire, I here embody them. That of the graduates is in the following terms:

‘ CINCINNATI, March 7, 1832.

*To the Hon. Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio.*

GENTLEMEN,—The time has arrived for our departure from the halls of our *Alma Mater*. The interesting period we have spent under her instructions, and the benefits received, enlist our earnest desires for her increased and permanent prosperity. We have indulged the hope, that in this parting hour something may be contributed by us, towards the future glory of the Medical College of Ohio, whose testimonials, this day received, we wish to be proud of through life. Influenced by this hope and an ardent desire for the elevation of our profession in the West, we present you a few facts for consideration, which seem to us of vital importance to the Institution over which you preside, and of which we are the youngest offspring.

It becomes us to wear in your presence, the garb of modesty; and we would not cast it off. This, however, does not require a pusillanimous acquiescence in existing evils, nor does it impose silence, when there are motives to speak out. With these views impressed upon our minds, we respectfully address you.

In relation to Medical Schools, there is one position which cannot be controverted, and which each of you will admit to be true. Such institutions can never attain to exalted rank, nor become attractive to young gentlemen of liberal qualifications and high aspirations, unless their leading chairs are occupied by men of commanding talents, and thorough professional attainments. The expectation that we should find this the case here, led us to this place. But our estimate was, in some respects incorrect. It is true, that some of the most experienced lecturers, and learned physicians, have been during the winter, connected with your school; and you have others of bright promise, who will soon win for themselves and for the College wreaths of honor. But all are not thus qualified, and there is obviously an unfortunate allotment of some of the chairs. To one instance only we now call your attention, because it is the most prominent and the most important.

The chair of Theory and Practice, the most important, the most influential, the most difficult is filled by one, who would occupy with more advantage another station. We cannot offer you on the present occasion all the evidence which might be concentrated to sustain this declaration, but we believe that sufficient testimony will be found in the following exhibit.

During the session just closed, the professor of Theory and Practice has lectured on the following subjects:—Costiveness; Bilious Derangements; Dyspepsia; the different kinds of Colic; Cholera Morbus, and Cholera Infantum; Diarrhæa; Dysentery; Inflammation in general, with particular Inflammations of the Abdomen, Chest, and Head; Erysipelas; Fever in general, with an account of Intermittent Fever; as far as a part of the treatment. These are the only diseases about which we have received instruction from the chair of Theory and Practice.

To enable you to form some conception of the scope of its duties, and how limited is the above enumeration, we subjoin a catalogue of a portion of those which have not been touched: Asthma;

Pulmonary Consumption; Gout; Rheumatism; all the Chronic diseases of the Skin; Hemorrhages, or Discharges of blood from the Lungs, Stomach, Bowels, and Bladder; Asphyxia or Suspended Animation; Diabetes; Angina Pectoris; Apoplexy; Palsy; Epilepsy; Chorea; Tetanus; Hysteria; Hydrophobia; Neuralgia; Softening of the Brain, and all other Nervous affections; Mental Derangement in all its varieties; Scarlet Fever; Measles; Chicken Pox; Cow Pox; Small Pox; Varioloid, and other eruptive Fevers; Mumps; Whooping Cough; Scurvy; Dropsies of every kind; Remitting Bilious Fever; Typhus Fever; Yellow Fever; Diseases of the Eye; Diseases of the Ear; Diseases of the Heart.

We might extend the number, but prefer to limit ourselves to such as we believe are considered indispensable objects of attention in other schools, and which your honorable body will perceive are important maladies.

Is not this sufficient to justify the present step? What we say of the course this winter, is said of those of preceding winters. Does not the matter call for your interference? We dictate nothing to you on this occasion. We appear as respectful applicants in behalf of the College and of our profession. You have at your disposal, unappropriated, a chair of high respectability, though of less vital interest. Let him to whom the Institutes was once tendered, and who declined its acceptance, unless time to qualify himself was granted, be permitted to remain in New York. We can conceive of no paramount claims, which he can advance, and let this chair be given to Professor Moorhead. The most important post would then be vacant, and an opportunity afforded you for providing those who resort here to qualify themselves to practice medicine, with that instruction which they seek. And to whom could you look to fulfil its exalted functions. Every voice, North, East, South, and West, will proclaim to you, Dr. Drake, the man who was constrained to withdraw from the Institution because confined to an insignificant professorship,—and whose resignation filled us with regret. All are acquainted with his talents, and the voice of several conspicuous Medical Schools, and the unbounded approbation of every class to which he has lectured bear witness to his peculiar qualifications for the chair of Theory and Practice. We have listened with great pleasure and benefit to his able and lucid teachings, and add our testimony in favor of his claims.

The memorial of the under graduates is as follows:

‘CINCINNATI, March 8th, 1832.

*To the Honorable the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Ohio.*

GENTLEMEN,—As students of the Medical College of Ohio, (having attended a course of lectures in the last session,) and as among those who feel a deep interest in the future prosperity and success of that school, we beg leave to respectfully submit the following suggestions for your consideration.

That as Professor Drake has held the chair of Theory and Practice of Medicine in two Medical Colleges, (both of which are in possession of no unenviable reputation,) and always acquitted himself with the most distinguished honor; and as he did hold the same chair in this College in the commencement of its operations; and as his fame is so much identified with this Professorship, we firmly believe the best interests of the College would be advanced by his restoration to it.

To accomplish this much desired object, we would humbly suggest to your honorable body a *transfer of Professorships*, believing no other Professor's character to be so intimately associated with his chair, and that it might be advantageously made without injury to any individuals concerned.

Thus sustained, I hope that I violate no sentiment of delicacy, in presenting myself as a candidate for the chair from which I was expelled, whenever your honorable body may contemplate to make a change in its incumbent.

I have the honor to be respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAN, DRAKE. ”

Simultaneously with this application to the Board, I opened a correspondence with Dr. Eberle, of which I shall likewise give you a copy.

*Dr. Drake to Dr. Eberle.*

“CINCINNATI, March 15, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,—On the 15th of July last, when you understood that I had been offered the Chair of Institutes and Medical Jurisprudence in the Medical College of Ohio, you asked the question in your letter, ‘Will you accept of your appointment? If it is not entirely re-



pugnant, I could wish you would do so, for I think we shall be able by a well concerted and persisting operation on the Trustees to get you into the Chair of the Practice before long.' Had this event happened, or had I even received the Institutes in connexion with Clinical Medicine, I should not have left the College. When I resigned the latter, I had no hope or expectation of again entering the School, for I saw nothing to indicate that the Professor of the Theory and Practice would ever be removed; but such a measure it seems is now under advisement in the Hon. Board of Trustees. Meanwhile a majority of the graduates present at the late commencement, and a large proportion of the undergraduates still remaining in the city, have recommended me to the Trustees, for the Chair of Theory and Practice, proposing the transfer of its present incumbent to the Institutes and the dropping of Dr. Pierson; several of them moreover have spoken to me personally in pressing terms, and many of my friends have urged me to become a candidate for that Chair. I have reflected on the matter as dispassionately as possible, and have finally come to the conclusion to address a communication to the Board, professing myself as a candidate for that Chair in the event of their vacating it.

As you have constantly manifested a desire to see me in that station, I feel assured that I shall have your valuable influence on this occasion. I do not, indeed, think, it probable that the Board will make any innovation on the compact of last Summer; but if they should, you may consider that I am an applicant for the Chair which I originally held in the school; and I shall confidently hope for your aid in recovering it. Please to let me hear from you on the subject.

Very respectfully, your friend,

DAN. DRAKE."

*Dr. Eberle to Dr. Drake.*

"CINCINNATI, March 16, 1832.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of yesterday has been put into my hands. You are entirely right in saying that I have always professed a desire to see you placed in the chair of the Theory and Practice in our College; for I am well persuaded that such a measure would enhance the usefulness and success of the Institution. I fear, however, that my means of contributing to the accomplishment of this object, are much more limited than you seem to think. There is not the slightest probability that Dr. Pierson will be dropped by the Trustees. They will provide a Chair for him some way or other, and all calculations made on a contrary supposition are, I am confident, wholly fallacious. The Trustees, I believe, have made up their minds that there shall be but six Chairs. The Professorship of the Institutes, must, therefore, be abolished; and as Dr. Pierson will not take the Chair of Obstetrics, his friends have been engaged in clearing the chair of the Materia Medica for him. Through their persuasion and advice, Dr. Moorhead has been brought to consent to accept of the chair of Obstetrics and Clinical Medicine, in order that by my translation to the chair of the Theory and Practice, Dr. Pierson may be placed in the chair of the Materia Medica. This, I believe, is the arrangement which the Trustees mean to a lopt. I have not had the smallest participation in the getting up or concoction of this scheme. When the committee called on me to ascertain my sentiments, I told them explicitly that I would neither ask, nor even express a wish, to be appointed to the chair of the Practice, but that if they thought it expedient to do so, I would acquiesce. As you had mentioned to me, on several occasions, that you meant never again to take part in any medical school—that you had bidden a final adieu to all Medical Colleges, I did not think it proper to propose you to the committee for the chair of the Theory and Practice; yet I afterwards proposed, in the presence of three of my colleagues, to take any chair, except that of the Institutes, if the Trustees would appoint you to the chair held by Dr. Moorhead. The reply was, that Dr. Moorhead would not yield his chair unless the arrangement mentioned above be adopted, and that the thing was not to be accomplished.

Thus I find myself in an unpleasant position. With the sincerest desire to see you in the chair of the Theory and Practice, I stand myself in the situation of a candidate for this chair. I did not, however, place myself in this situation either by direct or indirect means. Yet I believe that my translation to this chair would be favorable to the prospects of our school; and I can see nothing which would imply breach of faith or honor, were I to accept this appointment. I was the more ready to acquiesce in this arrangement by your free and entire approval of it, when I mentioned it to you, about four weeks ago. You then said that my appointment to the chair in question would be a redeeming act in the Board of Trustees; and that it was very desirable it should be done. Nevertheless, if your success depends, in any way, on the relinquishment of my wishes to obtain the chair, the affair can be speedily settled. I disclaim all pretensions to the chair of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, if there is any disposition manifested by the Board to appoint you to it; and I ardently wish that such might be the determination of the Trustees. But how, and in what manner can I forward this purpose? If I refuse to accept the chair of Practice, Dr. Moorhead will most certainly reclaim

and retain it. If I consent to take the professorship of Obstetrics, then Dr. Pierson will be appointed to the chair of Mat. Med., and Dr. Moorhead will remain where he is. All these things are predicated on the presumption that the chair of Obstetrics will be vacated. If this should not be done—and I openly declare that it ought not, the difficulties in your way will be still greater. There are two things fixed in relation to all present arrangements of our Faculty. The one is, that the chair of the Theory and Practice will *not* be vacated without the voluntary recession of Dr. M.; and the other is, that a chair *must* and *will* be provided for Dr. Pierson.\* Your own judgment will tell you how these difficulties will operate. They may yield to a partial melioration of the Faculty, though they will not, I apprehend, yield to the best arrangement that *might* be made.

If my feeble influence can aid you, in the way you mention, you may calculate on having it entirely.

With sentiments of great esteem, I am yours,

JNO. EBERLE."

*Daniel Drake, M. D.*

You cannot fail to perceive that in this letter, Dr. Eberle bears me out in almost every thing I have said of the conduct of the Board of Trustees after the union of the two schools. In a few days, I sent him the following answer:

*Dr. Drake to Dr. Eberle.*

"CINCINNATI, March 19, 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,—I should have replied to your friendly letter of the 16th immediately, but that a variety of engagements left me too little time to go into the full consideration of several things connected with the object on which I first wrote to you.

Last summer, when Dr. Pierson declined taking the chair of the Institutes unless allowed a year for preparation, it was the opinion of yourself and Doctors Staughton, Mitchell, and Henry, that the Board should and would unite it with Clinical Medicine, so as to give me a professorship of equal extent and dignity with those of my colleagues. All of you repeatedly conversed with me on the subject, during the autumn which succeeded to our transfer from the University to the College; and Dr. Mitchell once suggested the propriety of a meeting of the late Miami professors, for that very purpose. Throughout that period and afterwards, I did not doubt that an effort of some kind would be made on this subject; but by mid-winter I became convinced it would not. I had then no alternative but to resign. In doing this, I acted under the impression, and expressed it to you and other friends, that I should never again belong to the College or any other school; but I, at no time, said that I never *would* re-enter that Institution. I did not, at that time, believe that any state of things would arise that could bring me into the chair of Theory and Practice; and, *on resigning*, I was determined never to rejoin the school except in that station. When you told me, a few weeks since, that *you* should probably be offered that chair, I felt in the same way, in reference to *my* prospects, and said that the school would certainly be much improved from its present condition by such a transfer. I still thought my own prospects hopeless. But since that time several things have transpired to change my views and expectations.

First. I have discovered that even the present Trustees can bring themselves to resolve on transferring Dr. Moorhead from the Theory and Practice; although they have always held the language that his qualifications for that chair were pre-eminent.

Secondly. The students have passed resolutions, in my favor, and presented memorials to the Board, praying that such a step may be taken, and that I may be placed in his chair; and no counter memorials, as far as I know, have been gotten up.

Thirdly. I have been told by a member of the Board, and others have heard the same thing, that if I had not resigned, I might have had any place in the school that suited me. But I assigned the narrow limits of my chair as the sole reason for leaving it; and I need not put the question to you, did the Board propose any thing more for me on receiving my letter, or before? What they did, in conclave, I know not; but this I know, that up to the present hour, they have not had the civility even to acknowledge the receipt of my letter, and have left me to depend for information concerning their decision, on public rumor. So adroitly, indeed, have they managed this matter, that many of my friends actually believe that I might have had any place in the school that I desired, and that my resigning was a mere act of capriciousness. It is due to myself to correct this imputation; and I shall best accomplish it by an application to the Board for my original chair, which it seems they are about to vacate.

Fourthly. Several of my friends, both in town and country, who are men of respectability,

\* *As though he did not at that time hold the Institutes*—remaining in New York to prepare himself, while his colleagues were discharging his duties!

D.

have voluntarily assured me, that they are determined, in due time, to make an effort for the amelioration of the Board, and have insisted that I should make and keep myself an applicant for the chair from which I was originally expelled.

These are the considerations which have induced me to become a candidate, *even* to the present Trustees. But I do not ask *them* to displace Dr. Moorhead for my accommodation. I only wish, by them, to be regarded as a candidate for the chair, in the event of their transferring him to any other.

I collect from your letter, however, that the object of that transfer would be to provide Dr. Pierson with a substitute for the Institutes, which he has held for eight months; which substitute, of course, could be no other than your chair; but which he could not get without *your* transfer to the Theory and Practice, and Dr. Moorhead's transfer from it to Dr. Henry's chair. Thus, the argument would run that I cannot, by possibility, get the Theory and Practice, because it will not be relinquished by its present incumbent, except under an arrangement that would necessarily bring you into it; and, therefore, that in allowing yourself to be a candidate for it, you do nothing to my prejudice. All this would be correct, and conclusive against me, if I did not confidently anticipate an amelioration of the Board; but under this anticipation, I am a candidate, *unconditionally, as it respects the future*, and should, by your transfer to that chair at the present time, be embarrassed in my attempts to obtain it from another Board.

You must be fully aware, that I refused to abandon *any* of my Miami colleagues for the Medical College of Ohio. At first, when the Trustees of the latter commenced operations on us, you were not elected, and I had to decline the Institutes in favor of Dr. Pierson, so as to open the chairs of Materia Medica and Obstetrics to you and Dr. Henry—suggesting and accepting for myself the limited station of Clinical Medicine. The Board did not lack confidence in you; but Dr. Pierson was their *protegee*. I wrote to my friends over Ohio and other parts of the West, and obtained strong recommendations for you; all of which, together with my own humble but earnest testimony, I transmitted to the Trustees. Finally, you and all your colleagues, except myself, were adopted into the College on the same chairs you held in the University; while I had to enter a very different one from that which I relinquished. It is well known to a number of my friends, that when I suggested, and offered to accept that chair, I did it under the impression, that I might have to leave it at the end of the session, on account of its limited extent; and I can refer you to several of them, to whom I said, that the great object I, finally, had in view, was, to save you from injury: That I believed the Miami School was blighted by the attempt of the College to draw off a part of its Professors: That you had left the Jefferson School, to come to Cincinnati in connexion with me; and that, beyond a doubt, notwithstanding the guaranty of which you had a right to claim the benefit, you would be sorely disappointed, if not seriously injured. To obviate these evils to you, was, indeed, my absorbing motive; and I declared at the time, and now solemnly repeat the assertion, that I would not have entered the College on the chair of Clinical Medicine but to secure your introduction on the same professorship you held in the University. I trust, my dear sir, you will pardon my reference to these circumstances, never before, I believe, fully developed to you. I have endeavored to look at the matter impartially; have thought how I would act if our situations were reversed, and am unable to perceive, that I ask of you any sacrifice, or solicit any thing that I should not, if placed in your situation be willing to grant. You must be convinced, that the *object* of your transfer to the Theory and Practice, is, to accommodate Dr. Pierson, and displace Dr. Henry, by one and the same movement on the chess-board of the institution,—not to advance your interests. Indeed, I do not see how your interests *could* be as much promoted by that arrangement as by my restoration to the school; for what the chair of Theory and Practice would gain by your transfer, that of Materia Medica would lose. I may, it is true, over-rate myself; but if I do, the fault is yours more than mine; for I have made your own declarations of my competence, a chief element in my estimate of its amount. In the most frank and friendly manner, then, I would express the hope, that you will recognize in my peculiar relations to yourself, to the College, and to the chair of Theory and Practice, an adequate reason, why you should refuse to accept it, so long as the wishes of my friends, (including yourself,) or my own views, may keep me a candidate.

But there are considerations of self respect, which, should they occur to you, will not, I am convinced, be without their influence over you on this occasion. The proceedings of the Board are demonstrably unjust and discreditable, as I shall endeavor to show, by a reference to facts, most of which are already known to you.

When you said in the Autumn, that if I had to resign in consequence of the retention of Dr. Pierson, you would resign also—a step to which I should not have consented—you spoke under the conviction, that an adherence to him would be an act of favoritism, and you condemned it. And what is now the temper of the Board in reference to him? The same. But more developed—more active—more desolating to the rights and interests of others. Did any of us go after the College last summer, and ask for the displacement of its profes-



sors? Did not the Trustees seek out the Miami Faculty, and try to destroy by dividing and distracting it? Where was the power that compelled them to elect any or all of us into the College? No where but in ourselves,—not as candidates for places, but as professors in a rival school. Under the apprehensions thus inspired, they opened to us the gates of their citadel, before we had discharged the artillery of our lecture rooms against them, and bid us enter. They made certain reservations for a portion of their own professors, and gave the remaining places to us. For Dr. Pierson they reserved the Institutes, and gave his professorship to yourself. *If this was an act of injustice to him, they ought not to have done it, and he should have refused at the time—if it was not, they should not now become unjust, and seek by arbitrary resolves and unwarrantable displacements to reinstate him.* And yet, is not their whole policy directed to this end? Does not his brother-in-law, Col. Davies, the Secretary, govern the Board and direct all their movements to his personal object? Is not the plighted faith of the Corporation to be violated, and its reputation for fair dealing tarnished, to support a family compact, the idol of which is little known, and, as you are aware, still less worshipped out of its own temple? When Dr. Pierson *agreed* to take the Institutes as a substitute for *Materia Medica*, provided time was granted him for preparation, did he not *acquiesce* in his transfer from one chair to another, and thus preclude his friends from all *right to intrigue* for his restoration? Did the Board not grant the delay which he required, and assign his duties for the late session to his colleagues, who turned them chiefly over to me, because it was anticipated, by us all, that the chair of Clinical Medicine would be deficient in subjects? Did he not engage in schooling himself, and send from New York to Cincinnati for the writings of Boerhaave and Van Sweiten to aid him in the task? Why, then, should he not be required to keep the chair thus solemnly given and accepted? Why should the Board, without your desire, transfer you and restore him to that which he had consented to relinquish? Why should they displace Dr. Henry, who has without previous discipline as a public lecturer, and *without a year of preparation*, acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the class; and, so well, as to receive your own approbation! The answer to all these questions is obvious. Dr. Pierson finding himself unable to weave the web of Philosophy, which the Institutes require, wishes to be restored to *Materia Medica*. To this end that chair must be vacated, and the Institutes abolished.

And what is the *pretext* for abolishing this important professorship, established and put into market as far back as the year 1827? A professorship which you know, as well as myself, is regarded by the profession generally of the present day, as an essential part of every good school? Why, forsooth, that the present Faculty of the College advise it. I deny that the Faculty has ever acted on it. When the Trustees, a short time since, submitted the question to the Faculty, the Dean, you know, did not convene it, but sent to the different professors for their separate opinions. I did not like this irregular proceeding; nor did I like the language and manner of the resolution of the Board, for, by obvious implication, it conveyed a hope that the Faculty *would* sanction the reduction of the chairs to six. It was like a leading question put to a witness. What the professors did sanction I know not; but I recollect, that you read to me, in your reply, a decided opinion, that Medical Schools ought to have at least seven professors; and you told me that Dr. Mitchell said he should give a similar answer. Dr. Henry and myself were likewise against the reduction. How then can the majority of the professors have sanctioned it? Moreover, in 1827, I was assured by Mr. Ruter, who came to me as a committee, that the Faculty at *that time*, were in favor of a chair of the Institutes, and wished me to accept it; and I was also told, last summer, on what I regarded good authority, that the Faculty were still of the same opinion. If they were not, why was the chair then revived? So much for the opinions of the Faculty. As to the Trustees themselves, *they* have held but one language on this subject since 1827. In the summer of that year, Dr. Ramsay, the President of the Board, assured me, that the Trustees looked upon the Institutes as a professorship of great dignity and usefulness, and urged my acceptance of it. In 1831, Judge Burnet, who was then the President, expressly told me, that the Board regarded that chair, as not inferior in rank, to the best in the school, and indeed, would offer me none that was. In the course of this interview, the compromise between the two schools being on foot, I offered to yield that chair to Dr. Pierson, and take Clinical Medicine, if the friends of that gentleman chose, upon which both Judge Burnet and Mr. Este urged, that the latter chair would not satisfy the public, which would require of them to assign me a higher station—such as the Board regarded the Institutes. Finally, the present head of the Corporation, Mr. Cory, admitted to me on the morning of the late Commencement day, that the Board considered that professorship as equal in respectability and value to the other chairs of the School. Thus I have shown you, that it has been the policy of the institution, for five years past, to have a professor of the Institutes. Last summer they found one, and regarding the chair as of great difficulty, allowed him time to prepare himself. But they have now, by some kind of second sight, suddenly discerned that it is of no value, but rather a detriment to the school and ought to be suppressed!

It was well known to the Board all winter, that my chair of Clinical Medicine was too limited, and that if they did not enlarge it, I should resign. If the chair of Institutes on which I was lecturing daily for Dr. Pierson, while he was digesting Boerhaave and Van Swieten in New York, had become so unimportant in the estimation of the Board, why did they not form a good one out of the two, and place me, as they had professed to believe I merited, on a footing, as to official consequence, with the highest in the school? The answer is easy—they wished to promote my resignation. After that had taken place, why did they not suffer the school to move on as they had arranged it last summer. By what logic, after getting rid of a supernumerary chair, did they come to the conclusion, that they ought to abolish one, which for years they had regarded as essential? Thus having at one time three teachers of the Institutes and Practice, and at another time but one! Such libations prove, that either from ignorance or personal partiality, the Trustees are incapable of pursuing any settled policy, and are unworthy of the momentous trust confided to them by the State.

The secret of all these absurd vacillations is their desire to indulge Dr. Pierson. For the purpose of gratifying *his* taste and wishes, Dr. Henry, in violation of the compromise of last summer, must be removed from the school, and a new place opened for Dr. Moorhead, to whose chair you are to be transferred, that yours may be offered to Dr. Pierson, though he had relinquished his claims upon it, eight months ago! Thus, you see, the reduction of the chairs to six, is a *means*, not an *end*, and so the community will come to understand it. Could the wisdom of the Board have devised any easier mode of re-establishing Dr. Pierson in Materia Medica, we should have heard nothing about this reduction. On the whole, I may say, that Dr. Henry is to be sacrificed, the faith of the College violated, and an important professorship abolished, not because the prosperity of the school requires either; but because, Dr. Pierson can compile manuscripts on Materia Medica, but cannot arrange principles into a system of the Institutes.

This is legislating downwards to the mediocrity of a favorite, but it will not be permitted much longer. I saw enough of the temper of the General Assembly last winter, when the Trustees, ineffectually, besought that honorable body for protection against us of the Miami School, to be assured, that a true and candid *expose* of facts, is all that the State will require, to induce it to confide the Institution to other men. The members of the present Board are respectable citizens, most of whom I esteem as acquaintances in *private* life, and some of them are disposed to be unprejudiced. Hence the reflections which I have cast upon certain official acts are not intended to involve all the members of the Board; for it cannot be asserted, that *all* are governed by the gentleman to whom I have ascribed the power of regulating the admission and expulsion of Professors. Still he commands the majority in every movement that relates to Dr. Pierson, and his presence in the Board undoubtedly suppresses a free expression of sentiment against the claims and merits of that gentleman.

Respectfully, your friend,  
DAN. DRAKE."

To this letter, I received no reply. In a few days, I heard that Dr. Henry was dismissed, and Dr. Moorhead put in his place; Dr. Eberle raised to the Theory and Practice, and Dr. Pierson restored to Materia Medica, the grand object of all these devious movements, and the final development of the plot.

The Institutes and Clinical Medicine were of course abolished; and thus the two important chairs, on which united, I would gladly have remained in the College, were denied to me and then struck from the roll of professorships, by those, who every day told my friends that they recognized my claims to a respectable place in the school, and were anxious to do me justice!

But not content with thus banishing me, the Board proceeded in subsequent public acts, to false accusations and statements, as a means of justification.

A few weeks after the close of the transactions of which I have spoken, they published a circular, in which they state, that my resignation was unexpected to them. Now, in the preceding November, I wrote a letter to Dr. Pierson, in which, among other things, I told him that his coming on, would lead to my resignation in the Spring. In December, a copy of this letter was sent, as I understood, back to Cincinnati, to some one of the Trustees, and was a topic of conversation among *them*, the professors, and pupils. My resignation, therefore, was *not* unexpected, to the Board.

In the next place, they inform the public, in the same circular, that my resigning "*imposed*" on them the "*necessity*" of a further reduction of the chairs, and as a "consequence," the transfer of several professors. But this is disingenuous, and untrue. My resignation vacated only the new, limited, and supernumerary chair of Clinical Medicine, leaving all the rest as they had filled them the preceding summer, and *it, only, required to be abolished*. Now, of the appointments then made, they speak, in their report to the Legislature, Dec. 19th, in these words. "The Trustees feel gratified in stating that their expectations from this change have been realized"—"The present state of the College is one of increased prosperity and its future prospects are flattering."—Such is its condition with eight professorships; but, one of them is found by its incumbent to be so limited in its range, that he has not subjects for a full course of lectures, and as the Trustees failed to enlarge it, he resigns; whereupon they immediately proceed, not merely to abolish that, but another of wider range and deeper interest which he would gladly have taken, thus reducing the number to six! Having lost one professor by resignation, when they had a number which rendered the future prospects of the School flattering, they find, in that event, a *reason* for expelling another, and reducing the number still lower! By a parity of reasoning, if another had resigned, the chairs should have been reduced to four, and so on! It seems to me, that the honorable Board, seven out of eleven of whom, belong to a profession distinguished for acuteness, did not tax its ingenuity with much success, when it gave the resignation of an eighth professor, who held the humblest chair of the School, as the sole reason, for expelling another, whom the class desired to have retained; for abolishing two chairs, of which his was not one; and, making three transfers among the remainder! A more plausible excuse might certainly have been hit upon; but the honorable Board seem to have nodded over the preparation of this important manifesto; and a *certain name* being always present with them, they concluded to employ it, and save themselves the necessity of inventing a reason, in place of that which they were afraid to give, but which I trust has been disclosed to you in the course of this letter—being nothing more nor less, than to disgrace Dr. Henry, and relieving Dr. Pierson from the responsibility of the Institutes, to bring him back upon *Materia Medica*.

In the third place, it is asserted in the same circular—so prolific in false statements—that the College "Commenced its first session in 1824, with a class of fifteen pupils." But it went into operation in the month of November, 1820, with four Professors, who delivered *public* introductory lectures, and had a class of twenty-four pupils; seven of whom were graduated at a *public* commencement the ensuing April, and three of these first graduates, are now physicians in Cincinnati.

Its second session began in November, 1821, with five Professors, and a class of thirty-two students—of whom seven received diplomas, the next Spring. At the public Commencement held for this purpose, Drs. Edmiston and Canby, two of the most respectable physicians of the state, attended as Visitors, appointed by the Medical Convention of the state, acting under a law since unwisely repealed. They were present, as was their duty, at, and participated in, the examinations of the candidates, both in private and public, subscribed their diplomas and made a report to the Legislature on the state of the institution. Had this annual visitation been continued, the College would have remained, *de facto*, a *state*, and not been made a *city* institution.

The third session opened in the Autumn of 1822, with public introduc-



tory lectures, by two Professors, Drs. Smith and Slack, who had a class of eighteen pupils.

In 1823, there were three Professors, but *no class*; and consequently, I believe, no lectures.

In 1824, there were four Professors, two of whom had lectured from the beginning in 1820, and fifteen pupils; and this is pronounced by the honorable Board to be the *first* session of the School! Now, if this is true, it follows that the College of 1824 was a distinct corporation from that of 1820. But, the minutes of the Faculty for 1824 were kept in the same book, that had been used for that purpose from 1820, and Professors Slack and Smith appointed before the session of the latter year, continued to hold their places, without being reappointed, in the former year. The Legislature, however, has decided this matter, and established the fact, that the College of 1824, was the same as that of 1820. The following extract from the law of 1825, is conclusive on this point.

"Whereas health is essentially necessary to the happiness of society, and its preservation and recovery closely connected with a knowledge of the animal economy and the properties and effects of medicine; and it having been represented to this General Assembly, by the Trustees and Faculty of the Medical College of Ohio, that the act to authorize the establishment of a Medical College, passed the nineteenth day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and nineteen, and the several acts amendatory thereto, passed the thirtieth day of December in the year eighteen hundred and nineteen, and the thirteenth day of December, eighteen hundred and twenty two, and the act for the better regulation of the same, passed the fifth day of February in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-five, have been found insufficient to effect the important purposes for which they were designed; and that it is necessary they should be revised, with such alterations and additions as will tend to advance the character, improve the condition, extend the usefulness, and promote the future prosperity of said College:

"Therefore,

"Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That the Medical College of Ohio, for instruction in Physic and Surgery, and the auxiliary sciences, heretofore located in the city of Cincinnati, be, and the same is hereby continued and established at that place."

I have established the fact, then, that the present College is the same that went into operation in 1820; and consequently it follows that the Honorable Board of Trustees have published a deliberate—*UNTRUTH*.

How the Board of Trustees could be so indiscreet as to publish a false statement, so easily exposed and refuted, you may explain for yourselves. To me, it is much more mysterious, than the motive by which they were instigated. This is quite plain. They could not fail to perceive and feel, that my labors for four years, in forwarding and establishing, the school and hospital, would aggravate the treatment I had received at their hands; and, hence, they resorted to the expedient, of attempting to make the community believe, that the present College is a distinct corporation from that which I had projected!

I confess that I was indignant at this publication, and at the annual meeting of our District Medical Society, where it was distributed among the members, I publicly pronounced it a false document. I did think that after employing the delegated power of the state, in a long series of unjust, disingenuous, and mystical acts, to expel me from the school, and prevent my permanent return to it, in a respectable station, (to say nothing of that from which I was dismissed;) and after having succeeded so perfectly, its governors, now, that I am treading on the downhill of life, might have left to my vanity, the harmless gratification of being regarded as its founder; but they have sought, even in violation of truth, to despoil me of this humble distinction,

I must now, Gentlemen, bring this long letter to a close. I have mainly sought to establish in your minds a few great truths.

First. That fifteen years ago I projected the Medical College of Ohio; and that I have ever since looked upon Cincinnati, as the spot where the great medical school of the West might and ought to be located.

Secondly. That in the infancy of the College, after having, through many perils and difficulties, got it organized, I was unjustly expelled from it; and its destinies placed in the hands of my enemies, who have made my continued exclusion, the polar star of their movements, for the last ten years.

Third. That throughout this long period, at least till the reluctant union with the Miami Faculty in 1831, the Trustees selected their Professors from motives of convenience or personal partiality; and maintained them in stations for which they were incompetent; instead of introducing, as they might have done, into one of the most central and eligible cities of the nation, some of the ablest men which the nation affords.

Fourth. That the chief means by which they were enabled to keep such professors in office, in defiance of public sentiment, was low charging. On this subject there can be no mistake. Hear what the Trustees have, themselves, said to the Legislature, in their memorial, of the 10th of February, 1831—*"There is no school, either east or west of the mountains, where the price of tuition has been placed so low as in this!"* It would have been wonderful, indeed, if an average class equal to one third of that of our rival school, at Lexington, could not have been collected, on this principle, taken in connexion with that of free tickets and extended credits.

Fifth. That, as a necessary consequence of this sinister policy, the College has, throughout the whole period, been far inferior in reputation and the number of its pupils, to the Transylvania School; although, they were both instituted nearly at the same time, and the location of the latter is, confessedly, far less eligible than that of the former. During the last twelve years, the whole number of matriculated students, composing the different classes of the Ohio School, fell considerably short of 800, of which not less than 75 were beneficiaries; while within the same period, the number enrolled in the classes of the Kentucky School, was 2300, or at least three to one! The largest class ever matriculated, in Cincinnati, was that of last year, amounting to 131—the largest Lexington Class was 282; a difference of 151! All of which can be ascribed to nothing but the difference, in the talents, learning, and fame of the professors of the two schools.

Sixthly. That the state of Ohio has acted munificently towards the institution; but has never ordered one inquiry into the character of its professors, or the management of the Board of Trustees; while, the Legislature of Kentucky has repeatedly sent committees of its own body, to Lexington, to examine into the state of the Transylvania School, and report to them on its progress and actual condition.

Lastly. That the Board of Trustees should embrace a number of medical gentlemen, who should not be residents of the city, on account of the jealousies which might arise between them and the Professors, all of whom would be candidates for professional business.\*

Gentlemen! The work which you have undertaken, is every way praiseworthy; but you may expect to meet with decided opposition from the Board of

\* The present Board contains but one physician, Dr. Duncan, a member of the General Assembly. He did not, as I have been informed, attend the meetings of the Board, when the doings of 1831-2, of which I have spoken, were in progress, and is not, therefore, responsible for them.



Trustees, and their friends. You and all who may co-operate with you, will be denounced as *enemies* of the College! But how does this matter stand? Let us look at it for a moment. The College is a public eleemosynary corporation, founded and endowed by the state, and, technically, the state is the superintending Visiter. You have signified to the people of Ohio, that you intend to represent to this Visiter, that those to whom it has entrusted the power and moneys of the state, to be employed for the interests of medical education, have not been faithful to the trust. That they have acted without skill or enlarged views, in their appointments, and suffered the Institution, for a long series of years to lag behind a rival of nearly the same age in a sister state, placed under circumstances far less favorable to success; that it is your desire to see our own school assume the rank, and confer the benefits, originally anticipated; and which its admirable location, and ample endowments, might long since have effected, had its affairs been managed with wisdom and impartiality. Finally, you ask its founder, to commit its destinies, to better informed and more impartial men. Now, what is the logical conclusion from these premises? Most assuredly, that you are its friends, not its enemies. If the latter, you would not petition for a change, as the bitterest enmity, could not desire for it a more decided inferiority than that in which it has languished. It may be said, however, that the Board has lately dismissed *some* of its incompetent professors, and introduced others of better qualifications. But was not this forced upon them by a rival school, which their mismanagement suffered to start up? And is the Institution, even when thus improved such as the interests of the state require? No intelligent physician, who is acquainted with its composition, and real power, can answer this question in the affirmative.

To doubt the competency of its Trustees or Professors is to plot the overthrow of the College! But might not all its powers and functions, be at any time transferred to other men, and the institution still continue? The Faculty make no part of the corporation, and if it were abolished, that would still remain; or the offices of all the Trustees might be vacated, and its founder, the state become its governor without its becoming extinct. If those who administer its powers, and perform its functions, for the time being, are above the reach of public opinion, they are placed on a higher eminence than the legislature itself. If to point out their defects, and petition for abler men, is hostility to the prosperity of the Institution, why, then, farewell to all improvement in its condition. To complain of a bad officer, is not to object to the office; to question the sufficiency of a Faculty, or the impartiality of a Board of Trustees, by no sound logic can be tortured into an act of hostility against the institution, whose progress they may embarrass. Still you may expect to hear the oft repeated cabalistic words, "restless spirit," "disappointed aspirant," "intriguer," and "enemy of the College," applied to me, and the courteous phrases, "tools" and "sycophants," meted out to you, and all who may co-operate with you. It remains to be seen, whether the dynasty, which has so long maintained itself in place, by this language, will find in it a power sufficient to paralyze the laudable efforts of your Society.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your ob't. serv't.

DAN. DRAKE, M. D.

Drs. MARTIN, ROSS, TEMPLETON,	} Committee of the Third
STANTON, and BELL.	
	} District Medical Society.

## III.--MEMORIAL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

*To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of Ohio:*

Your memorialists, a committee appointed by the Third District Medical Society, to inquire into the condition and promote the improvement of the *Medical College of Ohio*, would respectfully represent to your honorable body—That the Medical College was incorporated by your predecessors at the session of 1818-19, and that the charter has been subsequently amended, and the institution munificently endowed. With the most eligible site in the extended Valley of the Mississippi, and the liberal patronage of the state, the College has not attained that degree of eminence, usefulness, and respectability, which was anticipated by the state, and the medical profession, at its foundation. It has existed for more than twelve years in an unprosperous condition, with small classes of pupils annually, many of whom were beneficiaries; whilst a rival institution, of nearly the same age, in an adjoining state, with an ineligible site, and with less pecuniary patronage from the state, has, by the enlarged and liberal policy of those who govern it, become eminently distinguished as a school of medicine; alluring, annually, to its halls, large classes of pupils. Your memorialists would respectfully suggest to your honorable body, the propriety and urgent necessity of the most vigilant and scrutinizing investigation into the causes of this great disparity between the two institutions.

The languishing condition of the Medical College of Ohio, which had, as your memorialists are informed, but 62 pupils at the close of last month, while that of Kentucky had 218, must be owing to defects both in organization and government. Of the present Board of Trustees but one is a Physician, and consequently they are not the best judges of the talents and qualifications of medical men, as professors. They all, except one, reside in the city of Cincinnati, and seem to look upon the medical college, as having been instituted for the exclusive use and benefit of that city.

Professors, with but slender qualifications, have been selected for the College, from among the personal friends, family physicians, and relatives of the Trustees, without much regard to the interests of the state, or the science of medicine.

Although recent events have forced upon the Board a few men of distinguished talents and reputation, yet the pertinacity with which they have subsequently adhered to an undistinguished and foreign favorite (even though a year be required for preparation, and an important professorship be abolished) evinces but too palpably their disregard of the true interests of the institution.

With these facts before them, your memorialists feel constrained to ask your honorable body, to re-organize the Medical College; and with due

deference, beg leave to suggest to your honorable body, the propriety and expediency of confiding the prerogative of appointing and removing medical Professors in the College, to a Board, selected from different sections of the state, a majority of whom should be physicians, or that your honorable body would so augment the number of Trustees, as to give a preponderating influence to those who reside without the city.

Your memorialists beg leave to refer your honorable body to the subjoined documents, trusting that the College may find in your wisdom, an emancipation from that system of favoritism and bad government which has ever blighted its fairest prospects.

JOSHUA MARTIN,  
JOSEPH TEMPLETON,  
JNO. ROSS,  
JOSEPH STANTON,  
WM. BELL, *Committee.*

XENIA, Ohio, Dec. 6, 1832.

FINIS.





W. J. H. S.  
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